THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL LGBTQ+ LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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MIDLANDS

# ZONE

68-PAGE BIRMINGHAM PRIDE GUIDE INSIDE!

TWIGGY

MAY 2019 ISSUE 265

## LOVE OUT LOUD AT BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

# Paul Morrell

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY & SAFE PRIDE 2019

**MAIN STAGE PRIDE SET SUNDAY EVENING**

## DATES

SUNDAY APRIL 21ST THE YARD, COVENTRY
FRIDAY APRIL 26TH SWEATBOX, DUBLIN, IRELAND
SATURDAY APRIL 27TH XXL, THE PULSE, LONDON
SATURDAY MAY 4TH XXL, THE PULSE, LONDON
SATURDAY MAY 11TH XXL, THE PULSE, LONDON
FRIDAY MAY 17TH MINISTRY OF SOUND, LONDON
SATURDAY MAY 18TH XXL, THE PULSE, LONDON
FRIDAY MAY 24TH XXL, THE CORE, BIRMINGHAM
SATURDAY MAY 25TH XXL, THE PULSE, LONDON
SUNDAY MAY 26TH MAIN STAGE BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

## 2019 RELEASES

AVA MAX - SWEET BUT PSYCHO (PAUL MORRELL REMIX)
KELLY CLARKSON - HEAT (PAUL MORRELL REMIX)
PAUL MORRELL FEAT. MARIA NAYLER - DAMAGE 2019
PAUL MORRELL FEAT. INAYA DAY - MY KINDA MAN
PERFECTO EP - CHECK IT / FRANTIC

DJPAULMORRELL.COM
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# New LGBT flag to be unveiled in time for Birmingham Pride

**Birmingham LGBT has announced that it will this month adopt the new community-wide inclusive Pride flag.**

The charity will be joining other national organisations and Pride events up and down the country in using the new flag, which incorporates colours representing Trans communities and queer people of colour.

The flag will be used by Birmingham LGBT at events like Birmingham Pride and the Pink Picnic, as well as on all communications that include the use of a Pride flag.

The flag will be unveiled as part of Birmingham LGBT's IDAHOBiT event on Friday 17 May. It will be presented to the community by a special guest at Birmingham LGBT Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend the event, which starts at 6pm.

Speaking about the decision to adopt the new inclusive flag, James Wharton, Wellbeing Services Manager at Birmingham LGBT, said: "It's right we do this, and we are delighted to be doing so. Yay!"

# Record ticket sales for Pride!

**Organisers of Birmingham Pride have announced record-breaking advance ticket sales to date for the UK's biggest two-day LGBTQ festival.**

The event, which takes place in Birmingham's vibrant gay village, will feature headline artists Years & Years and The Human League on the Main Stage.

Birmingham Pride Festival Director Lawrence Barton commented: "It's incredible to have achieved record ticket sales so far this year, with sales up over 10% on the same period last year."

Tickets for Birmingham Pride, which takes place on both Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May, are available online at www.birminghampride.com

# TRANS PRIDE ANNOUNCED...

**News that London is to host its first ever Trans Pride festival has received a fantastic response since being announced on Facebook.**

Within 24 hours of the story being posted, 1,800 people registered their interest in attending the one-day festival on 14 September.

The event, arranged by non-profit organisation London Trans Pride and London dance & club night Transmissions, welcomes Trans, Non-Binary, Intersex, Gender non-conforming and all gender identities, with organisers stating: "We welcome allies, friends and families of trans people to celebrate their trans loved ones with us on this day."

For further information and to keep up to date with line-up announcements, follow London Trans Pride 2019 on Facebook.

# LGBT charity hails new education regulations

LGBT rights charity Stonewall has hailed as 'a landmark moment of change' the passing through the Lords of the new Relationships and Sex Education regulations.

Mo Wiltshire, Stonewall Director of Education & Youth, said: "From September 2020, every primary school in England will have to teach Relationships Education, and the same goes for Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools. Primary schools will teach about different families, which can include LGBT families, and secondary schools will discuss sexual orientation and gender identity.

"Currently, two in five LGBT pupils are taught nothing about LGBT issues in school. This new teaching will help foster greater inclusion, acceptance and understanding in our classrooms, playgrounds and school corridors.

"It's now essential the Government invests in training and resources to support teachers to consistently deliver LGBT-inclusive teaching."

# Have ya heard?

## L Word does Trans

**Iconic lesbian television show The L Word is set to return, complete with two new trans male characters.**

A recent casting advert posted on social media stated that the show was looking for two trans men to fill the roles in the upcoming season of the hit TV series.

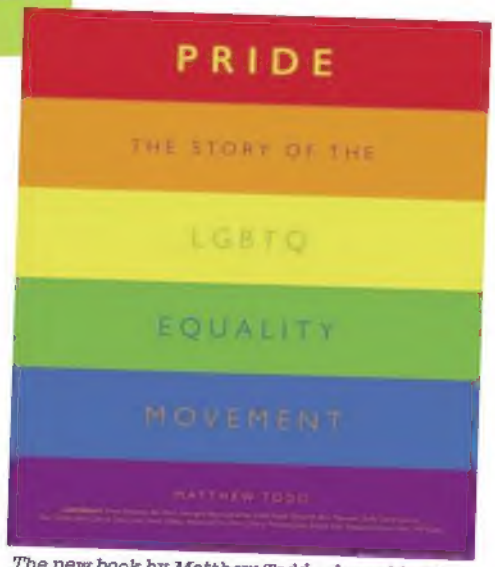
The L Word's revival will be music to the ears of its army of fans. Launched 15 years ago, the programme first featured a trans male character back in 2006, a move which was described as 'problematic' by some. Others praised the programme's inclusion of a trans character at a time when there was virtually zero representation elsewhere.

The long-awaited L Word reboot will feature original cast members Jennifer Beals, Katherine Moennig and Leisha Hailey. Air time is yet to be confirmed.

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF LGBTQ+ HISTORY

LGBTQ+ milestones form the basis of a new book released this month.

Pride: The Story Of The LGBTQ Equality Movement is the work of award-winning author and former Attitude magazine editor Matthew Todd. Featuring lots of historic and rare images and including contributions from Travis Alabanza, David Furnish, Paris Lees and Will Young, the book covers the equality movement from the victories of early activists through to the gradual acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community in politics, entertainment, sport and the media.




*The new book by Matthew Todd released in May*

## Nomination for Brummie role model

Khakan Qureshi, who runs Finding A Voice - a social support group for South Asian LGBT+ communities in Birmingham and the surrounding areas - has been nominated in the Positive Role Model (LGBT) category of the 2019 National Diversity Awards.

In his nominee details, Khakan describes himself as "visible, authentic and myself, always. I am in an interracial, interfaith, intergenerational relationship, partnered for 27 years. ."

National Diversity Awards winners will be announced at a prestigious event at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral on Friday 20 September.

BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE
BIRMINGHAM
pride
Supported by HSBC UK
SATURDAY 25TH MAY 2019
VIRGIN TRAINS MAIN STAGE
YEARS & YEARS
MABEL SIGALA MÝA KATE NASH
LADY LESHURR M.O ALICE CHATER
MIXMAG ARENA
- SATURDAY DAYTIME -
THE BLACK MADONNA PRESENTS - WE STILL BELIEVE
HORSE MEAT DISCO OCTO OCTA MOXIE HOOKER CLUB ADONIS
- SATURDAY NIGHTTIME -
SAM DIVINE
THE LOS ANGELES CABARET STAGE
THE VIVIENNE GALS ALOUD MISS PENNY THE VIXENS BAGA CHIPZ
SANDRA LOLA LASAGNE TWIGGY DRAG WITH NO NAME DAVINA D'CAMPO
KY KELLY MISS THUNDERPUSSY TANYA HYDE MARTHA D'ARTHUR POPPY COCK
THE FUTURE STAGE WITH SPINDLE MAC
LEIKELI47 KAIIT MOHO OJERIME LADY SANITY
LACEY LOU'S FEMME PALACE M-A.D
UNPRONOUNCEABLE MIYAGI KILLGLASS
STREET FOOD
COMMUNITY STALLS
PRIDE PARADE
LIP SYNC STAGE
WOMEN'S ARENA

# SUNDAY 26TH MAY 2019

## VIRGIN TRAINS MAIN STAGE

# THE HUMAN LEAGUE

FAITHLESS DJ SET MARC ALMOND NAO

AJA ROGUE SYMPHONY

THE BIG GAY TIME PARTY FT.
5IVE & GLITTERSH*T

## MIXMAG ARENA

HANNAH WANTS

MONKI

JAGUAR FLEUR SHORE LISA SHARRED

JORDANNA JADE MARIE SOPHIA ESSÉL LAUREN GOULDER

## THE LOS ANGELES CABARET STAGE

VICKY JACKSON AS PINK THE VIVIENNE MISS MARTY MARSHA MELLOW

SANDRA KELLY WILDE AMY LA QUEEFA DAVE LYNN KARA VAN-PARK

SHANIA PAIN TOPSIE REDFERN SUM TING WONG GLITTER LIPS

## THE FUTURE STAGE WITH SPINDLE MAG

RICO NASTY ASHNIKKO NAKHANE CALL ME LOOP

EMILY BURNS ABISHA ANDREA DI GIOVANNI

THE CLAUSE LUCY WHITTAKER UNPRONOUNCEABLE

SOPHIELOU DRAG PUNK

LIP SYNC STAGE

WOMEN'S ARENA

STREET FOOD

COMMUNITY STALLS

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# NO OUTSIDERS

## ANDREW MOFFAT TO LEAD BIRMINGHAM PRIDE PARADE

### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

**We talk EXCLUSIVELY to Birmingham-based gay man of the moment ANDREW MOFFAT, who created the award-winning No Outsiders programme for schools. The programme teaches primary school children about subjects including LGBT diversity.**

**Although No Outsiders has been running for more than four years without any problem, it's currently at the centre of significant controversy, with some parents protesting its same-sex relationships content and Andrew himself having received DEATH threats. Andrew is currently assistant head teacher at Parkfield Community School in Saltley, Birmingham.**

**On a personal level, Andrew, you've received some quite horrific threats. How has that affected you?**

It's been very, very difficult. It's been the hardest term of my career. I've had some serious wobbles, but at the same time, what the threats do is make me more determined.

If I were a younger teacher or less experienced, I think it would be different, but I'm 47 and I've been teaching for 25 years. I know what the job is about and I'm very confident about my work. I've been doing LGBT work for 10 years. I wrote No Outsiders in 2014, and I think that if this had happened in 2014, it would've been different and I would've felt less confident about fighting for it. But I've now had four years of No Outsiders working fantastically, not only in my school but throughout the country.

Yes, the threats are nasty, but I've got support from across the country, I know what I'm doing and I know why it's important. That support gives me strength. Things like having Birmingham Pride endorsing No Outsiders is just huge. That kind of thing really keeps me going. Yes, you get the odd message or email or letter in the post that's horrible, but then I get Birmingham Pride saying they support No Outsiders, and that's like tens of thousands of people.

**The government must think very highly of your work with regard to equality and diversity to have awarded you an MBE...**

That was amazing! I still have no idea who nominated me for that - it wasn't my mother or partner. To get an MBE and be able to meet the Queen and tell her about No Outsiders was amazing. I tell the kids about it in school - you can't buy that type of assembly story.

To tell the kids and show them the MBE medal and say, 'I told the Queen about you and your work' - that was one of the best assemblies I ever did.

**How did No Outsiders first come about?**

Between 2006 and 2008 I wrote a resource called Challenging Homophobia In Primary Schools. It was just a free resource I put on the internet - a bit of training here and there - and that project ended in 2008. I was at a school in Newtown in Birmingham, and there was a backlash against the resource by some parents who said it amounted to gay lessons. So in the end I resigned from that school.

I then set about rewriting it as No Outsiders and taught about LGBT equality in context. I talked about engaging with parents, and that was in 2014. I got the resource published, and it's just grown and grown since then. It's been phenomenal, actually.

I don't see myself as a pioneer in this work, though. Schools have been doing equality work since the year dot, but what No Outsiders does is give it a framework. It also makes sure that LGBT isn't missed out.

**How did the £5,000 grant award from Birmingham Pride in 2015 help the No Outsiders programme?**

It was great that Birmingham Pride supported the aims of the project. I really wanted to make some sort of training film. I'd been asked to go around Birmingham and occasionally further afield to talk about it.

People were picking up on and using the term No Outsiders and thinking about it with regard to LGBT equality. That was always the worrying bit for primary schools. In my experience, no one was ever worried talking about race or disability or gender, but LGBT equality was a sticking point for primary schools.

They were always worried about how you could do that. So Birmingham Pride gave me a grant to produce this training film, and I've been using the film ever since.

It's a 15-minute film, and I literally take it around everywhere I go. I must have shown it thousands of times in schools and conferences, and I still use it today.

I also bought book packs with the Pride grant to create a No Outsiders library in my school, so that parents knew what we were teaching about. We bought multiple copies of the books that we use, and in the summer term we had a No Outsiders library where parents could come with their kids and borrow books for a couple of nights. That was invaluable.

**You're going to be making a speech to launch the Birmingham Pride parade, and you're going to be leading the parade as well. What's your message going to be?**

That's just wonderful, isn't it? It really is fantastic. I'm overjoyed that Birmingham Pride have asked me. It's just really going to be about standing up there and saying that No Outsiders needs to be taught in schools because this is how you help end homophobia - by teaching children about different people from an early age.

The message that I want to give is that it's not a case of Muslims versus LGBT or different cultures not getting along. It's about bigotry and fear, and the great thing about Birmingham is its diversity and that we can all get along.

Birmingham is a great place. There are no no-go areas for LGBT people - but we can't be complacent. We have to be out there, we have to talk about it and we have to work together.

# Andrew Moffat awarded an M.B.E from The Queen

Andrew proudly showing off his MBE, awarded in November 2017 for services to equality and diversity in education

**So if No Outsiders has been running for four years without any issues, how did the current controversy start?**

So we've had four years of calm - not a whisper of complaint. Parents have been completely on board. We've run No Outsiders parent workshops where parents can come with their kids. We've run 38 workshops altogether; the last one was in January.

Rumours started spreading that, as a result of new government proposals, sex education was going to be taught to four-year-olds, and that they were going to have pornography in classes, and that you wouldn't be able to withdraw your child from the lessons, and that basically there was a gay agenda.

These false rumours took hold and very quickly people started to say it was a conspiracy - it's a gay teacher, it's a gay agenda and it's everywhere. It just took hold, and all of a sudden my work had been hijacked.

The problem has been that people have been whipped up into a frenzy of panic about this and haven't been prepared to listen.

**What does the future hold for No Outsiders?**

Currently the lessons are suspended while we have parent consultation. It's a separate consultation; I'm not talking about the meetings. The meetings are going on at the moment. They're having parental engagement and we're confident that we can work together to find a resolution so that we can continue with our equality work. What we can't do is just stop teaching about it.

We would never say we're going to stop teaching about disability; if you're in a wheelchair then you're not welcome. We're not going to not discuss people who actually use wheelchairs - we would never say that. We would never say we're not going to talk about the Jewish faith or Sikhs or Hindus. It's the same for LGBT. We can't say we'll talk about mums and dads but we're not going to talk about dads and dads or mums and mums.

*Birmingham Pride's theme of 'Love Out Loud' is also supporting No Outsiders*

We've got to find a way forward, and we absolutely will, because the vast majority of parents, not just in my school but in all schools, know about this, are happy about it, and want their children to be prepared for life in modern Britain, and to know that there are different people out there.

You know that you're going to meet people who have different skin, different beliefs and different families. All this work is doing is preparing children so that they're not frightened about it. I'm not worried at all about the future of No Outsiders. We will absolutely find a way, with our community and our parents, to make this work continue because we have to.

**Have you found that after you've spoken to concerned parents individually, they have a better understanding of No Outsiders?**

Well, if I go back to where it first started, in a book which I wrote as a resource for teachers, I do a whole chapter on how to meet and engage with the parents and the reason I chose picture books.

# Andrew Moffat meets Hugh Jackman

## after being shortlisted for the Global Teacher Prize in Dubai

Andrew was shortlisted for the Global Teacher Prize. Here, he's pictured with the other nine nominees and the award ceremony's host, actor Hugh Jackman.

It's all based on picture books - and the reason I chose them was because you're not saying to parents, right, we're teaching about disability or race or LGBT, you're saying, here they are, here are the books that we're using. So you're showing them. There's no grey area or confusion as to what you're teaching. Here's the book, read it. I'll read it with you - it's there in front of them. The books that I've chosen are 35 picture books. They're all regular books that you can buy in Waterstones, and many schools will have them for years and years

Elma is in there. Everyone knows Elma. All schools have an Elma The Elephant in their collection. Elma's a multi coloured elephant, so he thinks he should try being grey because all the other elephants are grey. So he covers himself in berries to change colour, but then he realises that you don't have to change who you are, so he washes all the berries off and everyone celebrates with him. It's a simple story.

You relate that to race and LGBT, but it's just a picture book about an elephant. When you show parents these books, it's very hard to argue against Elma. There's no hidden agenda here, it's just very simply about teaching children that we're all different and that that's okay. Within that book, we make sure we don't miss anybody out.

> **"It's not a case of Muslims versus LGBT or different cultures not getting along. It's about bigotry and fear, and the great thing about Birmingham is its diversity and that we can all get along."**

*Andrew Moffat making an appearance on Good Morning Britain*

**Do you feel that you have the full support of the teaching staff?**

One hundred percent! And the governors as well. Also teachers around the country. What's started to happen in the last month is that we're getting cards and presents and flowers from schools around the country. You're talking hundreds of cards in the last couple of months. Someone sent the staff a hamper of cakes and biscuits with a note saying, 'A mum from Cambridge'. That's wonderful. The teachers are seeing that people are watching what's happening and wanting us to carry on. We have support from around the country and from schools as well. This is why I'm absolutely not going anywhere.

There are some people who want me to leave, but I'm not going to. Staying sends a very clear message. Every time I walk through that door it's a victory, because I'm there as an out gay man. I'm there and I'm visible, and that's really important. That's why Pride is still really important - it's about being visible. It's about saying, quite simply, here we are.

**Come along and support Andrew Moffat and his No Outsiders programme at the Birmingham Pride Parade, which sets off from Victoria Square in the city centre at 12 noon on Saturday 25 May.**

# DEATH TO

**In a move which has shocked the world, the South-east Asian country of Brunei Darussalam has introduced a new law which will see gay sex being punished by stoning to death...**

Surely the most shocking LGBT story of 2019 - so far, at least - has been the decision of the South-east Asian country of Brunei Darussalam to introduce barbaric new laws which would see individuals who are convicted of gay sex being stoned to death.

Under the new laws, a person will be convicted of the 'offence' if they confess, or are seen committing the act by four witnesses.

Lesbian sex will be punishable by 40 strokes of the cane and/or a maximum of 10 years in jail.

Homosexuality was already illegal in Brunei, with the punishment prior to the introduction of the new laws being up to 10 years imprisonment.

### Global outcry

Brunei's new legislation came into effect on Wednesday 3 April despite a global outcry.

Amnesty International's Rachel Chhoa-Howard said that the country "must immediately halt its plans to implement these vicious punishments, and revise its penal code in compliance with its human rights obligations."

Adding her voice to the show of outrage, Michelle Bachelet, the high commissioner for human rights for the United Nations, said: "In reality, no judiciary in the world can claim to be mistake-free, and evidence shows that the death penalty is disproportionately applied against people who are already vulnerable, with a high risk of miscarriages of justice."

### LGBTs driven underground

Meanwhile, UNAIDS - the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV &AIDS - fears that Brunei's new death-penalty law will force the country's LGBT community into hiding, making it difficult for them to access treatment and prevention services.

The organisation's Executive Director, Michel Sidibé, said: "These extreme and unjustified punishments will drive people underground and out of reach of life-saving HIV treatment."

Evidence shows that where gay communities are criminalised, they are more vulnerable to violence, less likely to access necessary HIV and other health services, and less able to protect themselves against HIV infection.

### Backlash against the laws

The backlash against the new legislation has seen strong words supported by robust action.

Among the measures taken to protest the laws, the University of Aberdeen stripped the Sultan of Brunei of his honorary degree, the Police Federation announced that it would no longer be holding its 2019 annual bravery awards ceremony at London's Dorchester Hotel - one of nine Brunei-owned hotels worldwide - Deutsche Bank said that it would not use any of the country's hotels, and global travel company STA Travel stopped selling flights on Brunei's national carrier.

Two days after the law came into effect, the Dorchester and its sister hotels deleted their social media accounts in the wake of the backlash.

## 11 countries where being gay is

Afghanistan Brunei Iran Mauritania Nigeria

# GAYS

## "buy up every room' in Brunei-owned hotels and have a non-stop orgy of fun and frivolity." Piers Morgan

The hotels had initially come under fire from George Clooney. Writing for website Deadline Hollywood, the actor called for a boycott: "Every single time we stay at or take meetings at or dine at any of these nine hotels, we are putting money directly into the pockets of men who choose to stone and whip to death their own citizens for being gay or accused of adultery."

Clooney was supported in his stance by, among many others, Sir Elton John, who wrote on Twitter: "I commend my friend, #GeorgeClooney, for taking a stand against the anti-gay discrimination and bigotry taking place in the nation of #Brunei - a place where gay people are brutalised, or worse - by boycotting the sultan's hotels."

### Non-stop orgy

Good Morning Britain presenter Piers Morgan called on gay people to "buy up every room" in Brunei-owned hotels and have a "non stop orgy of fun and frivolity".

Writing in his column in the Daily Mail, Morgan said, "Imagine how humiliated and small he [the sultan] would feel if his hotels became the very epicentre of gay pride and culture; if every place he owns from London to Paris to LA reverberated with joyous celebration of living, breathing, fornicating homosexuality."

Morgan went on to suggest that the sultan may be so ashamed to have gay people staying in his hotels that he might "end up stoning himself to death".

### Brunei responds

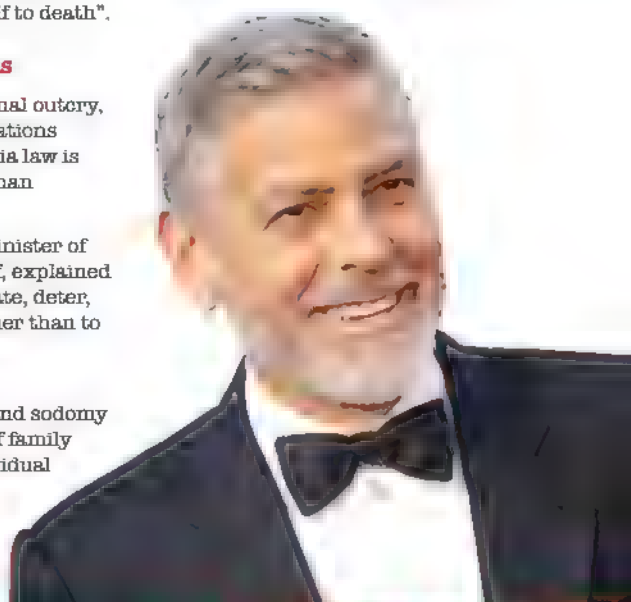
Responding to the international outcry, Brunei wrote to the United Nations explaining that the new Sharia law is aimed at prevention rather than punishment.

In the letter, the country's minister of foreign affairs, Erywan Yusof, explained that the law's aim is 'to educate, deter, rehabilitate and nurture rather than to punish'.

Yusof also wrote that the criminalisation of 'adultery and sodomy is to safeguard the sanctity of family lineage and marriage of individual Muslims, particularly women'.

He went on to say that Sharia law does not criminalise based on sexual orientation or belief, including same-sex relations

**Actor George Clooney called for the public to boycott the nine Brunei-owned hotels worldwide**



# punishable by death

Qatar Saudi Arabia Somalia Sudan United Arab Yemen

# So which countries discriminate against the LGBTQ community?

**Brunei is by no means alone in imposing the death penalty on individuals convicted of having gay sex. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Mauritania and parts of Nigeria and Somalia are similarly barbaric in their punishment of homosexuality... And then there are all the countries which don't have the death penalty but nonetheless discriminate against LGBTs...**

Although a number of countries have the death penalty, Amnesty International says that over the past few years it has not received any reports of anti LGBT laws having led to actual executions.

It's been rumoured that executions have taken place in Iran and Saudi Arabia, but these reports are unconfirmed.

Nigeria's Muslim-majority northern states, meanwhile, although having punishment-by stoning legislation, have never actually applied the law

## WHERE IS GAY SEX ILLEGAL?

According to the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Intersex Association (ILGA), there are currently 70 countries that criminalise same sex relations. A number of other countries have some form of legal restriction.

Despite the fact that same-sex relationships were formally legalised in Russia in 1993, the country continues to feature in the list. This is because, according to ILGA, over the last few years Russia has implemented "a variety of repressive legal provisions".

Prior to its introduction of tougher anti-LGBT laws earlier this month, Brunei punished homosexuality with a prison sentence of up to 10 years.

As well as the new death-by stoning law, Brunei has also criminalised sex between women. Females convicted of the 'offence' face a punishment of 40 strokes of the cane and/or up to 10 years in jail.

## COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

Homosexual relations are criminalised in 35 Commonwealth countries with legal statutes originating from British colonial times.

Last year saw India removed from the list of states that explicitly outlaw gay sex. This followed a ruling by the country's Supreme Court that struck down a colonial era law.

Responding to Brunei's new laws, the Commonwealth Secretary General, Patricia Scotland, said that the legislation "will potentially bring into effect cruel and inhuman punishments which contravene international human rights law and standards".

## LEGAL CHALLENGES

Legal challenges to anti LGBT laws are in the offing in a number of countries

The Kenyan High Court is this month due to rule on whether to decriminalise homosexuality.

Botswana's High Court is expected to contemplate the same issue later in the year.

Jamaica's anti homosexuality legislation is also currently facing a challenge

## SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Gay marriage is now legal in 26 countries across the world...

**2001** The Netherlands

**2003** Belgium

**2005** Canada, Spain

**2006** South Africa

**2009** Norway, Sweden

**2010** Iceland, Portugal, Argentina

**2012** Denmark

**2013** Uruguay, New Zealand, France, Brazil

**2014** UK (excluding Northern Ireland)

**2015** Luxembourg, Republic of Ireland, Mexico, USA

**2016** Colombia

**2017** Finland, Malta, Germany and Australia

**2019** Austria

# Let's hear it for the...

# Euro Boys!

**EUROVISION superfan Dean Asker gives us the lowdown ahead of this month's Song Contest...**

Brexit or no Brexit, one thing is certain, the UK will continue to take part in the Eurovision Song Contest. Thankfully entry to everyone's favourite musical event is not limited to EU countries

Indeed, this year, following Netta's victory with Toy, we're in Tel Aviv in Israel, a full 20 years after the contest came from Jerusalem (thanks to Dana International's win in Birmingham in 1998).

The big news actually has nothing to do with the 41 countries taking part. Three years ago, Justin Timberlake was the Contest's interval act, and now it's Madonna's turn. Although not 100% signed and sealed, it's looking very likely that the Queen of Pop will perform two songs, including one from her forthcoming album.

## THE FRONTRUNNERS

But what of the competition itself? Do we have any budding Madonnas in our midst? Well, maybe a couple, but this year's front-runners are all men.

The favourite to win comes from the Netherlands. Duncan Laurence, pretty much unknown in his own country, sings Arcade, a superb, atmospheric ballad that really does deserve to come out on top. The Dutch last won in 1975 with the classic Ding A-Dong by Teach In (YouTube it if you're under 40), so another win is very much overdue. Some readers might also be interested in YouTubing Duncan's promo video, which features him naked and underwater.

If unclothed men in water is your thing, then also take a look at the video for Azerbaijan's entry. The beefy and topless Chingiz sings the very catchy Truth, which, if you concentrate on the music (and not just the body!), could also be a contender for a top five place.

This year's Eurovision has more than its fair share of good looking guys. Switzerland's Luca Hänni is well fancied with She Got Me, which sounds a bit like the Latin hit Despacito. Luca's definitely been hitting the gym, and it's easily Switzerland's best entry since Celine Dion walked away with the crown in 1988.

If you can't get enough of Eurovision totty, then check out Italy's Mahmood, whose song, Soldi, is my personal favourite. And Sweden's John Lundvik (he looks after himself too!) should do well with the gospel flavoured Too Late For Love

## THE RETURN OF SERGEY

One of the biggest stories in the lead up to this year's contest has been the return of Sergey Lazarev for Russia. Sergey came third back in 2016 with the Eurobanger You Are The Only One. Expectations for another strong entry were high, but when he released his song, the bombastic ballad Scream, it was met with a muted response from fans. That said, Sergey is a great performer and Russia will throw the kitchen sink at the staging, so its chances must not be dismissed.

## WHAT ABOUT THE GIRLS?

What about the girls? Well, following the second placed success of Fuego last year, Cyprus is sending another upbeat song, Replay, by Tamta. Fans who love it get a bit annoyed when you say it sounds like Fuego, but it does (not that that's a bad thing!). To be fair, there are a few songs that seem to have been inspired by the

Cypriot entry from 2018, including the aforementioned Swiss entry and Chameleon by Malta's Michela Pace. To prove a point, some joker's even created a mash-up of these four tunes.

### AND AS FOR THE UK...

The UK's hopes rest with Michael Rice, who won the first series of BBC One talent show All Together Now. Michael has a powerful voice, and the song, Bigger Than Us (written by Swedish contender John Lundvik), is, for me, the UK's best entry since Blue in 2011. Let's just hope Michael can nail the stage performance on the night.

If Europop is really not your thing, then Iceland's 'award-winning, anti capitalist, BDSM, techno-dystopian, performance art collective' Hatari might be right up your street. Hatrið mun sigra is a slice of techno-punk sung in Icelandic. That's not something you hear every day, is it? But it's certainly different and should see Iceland back in the final after an absence of four years.

If Europop *is* your thing (and I suspect it is), then I point you in the direction of Norwegian pop trio KEiiNO. Spirit In The Sky is pure Eurovision: poptastic, dramatic and with a bit of Sami joik - 'the traditional form of song of the Sami people' - thrown in. What more could you ask for? Well, maybe the entry from San Marino Turkish crooner Serhat returns to the contest for a second time with Say Na Na Na, the title of which should really tell you everything you need to know. It's clichéd, a bit trashy, and yes, utterly fabulous.

> Bigger Than Us is, for me, the UK's best entry since Blue in 2011. Let's just hope Michael can nail the stage performance

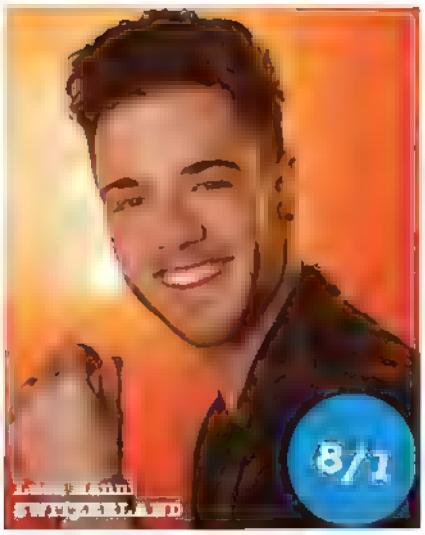
### THE FRONT RUNNERS

In a period when the world outside is a bit divisive and downbeat, Eurovision provides a welcome distraction from these uncertain times. So pour yourself some Bucks Fizz, make sure plenty of nibbles are on hand, and enjoy the most joyous musical experience of the year.

**The Eurovision Song Contest 2019 takes place in Tel Aviv, Israel, from Tuesday 14 to Saturday 18 May. The Grand Final will be broadcast on BBC One on Saturday 18 May.**

# EuroVision The contenders

**Michael Rice has some stiff competition in Tel Aviv. Here are the bookies favourites...**



ANSWERS:

# EUROVISION QUIZ

## Top marks or 'nul points'?

**1. ABBA's Waterloo won the 1974 Contest, but which song did the Swedish supergroup enter into their national heats the year before?**

A. People Need Love
B. Ring Ring
C. Hasta Mañana

**2. How many UK number one singles did 1981 winners Bucks Fizz have?**

A. One
B. Two
C. Three

**3. How many times has the UK finished in the Top 10 since 2010?**

A. None
B. Once
C. Twice

**4. Which of these countries has yet to win the Contest?**

A. Iceland
B. Serbia
C. Luxembourg

**5. Celine Dion won the 1988 Contest, but for which country?**

A. France
B. Switzerland
C. Monaco

**6. Blue represented the UK in 2011 with which song?**

A. I Will
B. I Do
C. I Can

**7. Who wrote the UK's 2009 entry, It's My Time, sung by Jade?**

A. Pete Waterman
B. Andrew Lloyd Webber
C. Jim Steinman

**8. How many times has Norway ended the Contest with 'nil points'?**

A. Four times
B. Three times
C. Twice

**9. Which of these songs did Jedward not sing at the Contest?**

A. Lipstick
B. Waterline
C. All The Small Things

**10. The last time the UK hosted the Contest, it was presented by Terry Wogan and which other presenter?**

A. Davina McCall
B. Ulrika Jonsson
C. Nathasha Kaplinsky

**11. Which of these countries is the only African country to have taken part in the Contest?**

A. Tunisia
B. Egypt
C. Morocco

**12. What was memorable about the 1969 contest?**

A. There were four winners
B. The contest wasn't broadcast live
C. It was the first contest to be broadcast in colour

**13. Which of these song titles is not a Eurovision winner?**

A. Pif Paf Pof
B. Diggi-Loo Diggi Ley
C. La La La

**14. How many countries took part in the first Contest in 1956?**

A. Five
B. Six
C. Seven

**15. How is Thomas Neuwirth better known?**

A. Cliff Richard
B. Conchita Wurst
C. Alexander Rybak

**16. Which of these UK cities has not hosted the Contest?**

A. Manchester
B. Harrogate
C. Brighton

**17. Which of these pop groups unsuccessfully tried to represent Norway in the 2010 Contest?**

A. Brother Beyond
B. S Club 7
C. A1

**18. Which former UK entrant said they would rather put pins in their eyes than represent the UK again?**

A. Cliff Richard
B. Michael Ball
C. Sonia

**19. Which year did Australia first take part in the Contest?**

A. 2015
B. 2016
C. 2017

**20. The theme for this year's Contest is:**

A. Dare To Dream
B. Feel The Rhythm
C. Join Us

**Check answers at the bottom of page 18**

## HOW DID YOU SCORE?

**17-20**
As Cliff Richard would say, 'Congratulations!' you're a Superfan

**10-16**
Gina G 'Ooh Aah... Just A Little Bit' more effort...

**5-9**
Bucks Fizz 'Making Your Mind Up' as to whether you like Eurovision?

**0-4**
Lynsey De Paul's 'Rock Bottom' - you're better off down the pub

# A Sweet Transvestite

## Blue's Duncan James takes on Frank-N-Furter...

# THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

**Midlands Zone chats to the show's creator ahead of its BIRMINGHAM run...**

**How does it feel to see the incredible success The Rocky Horror Show has enjoyed?**

I hope what I've done professionally on stage has entertained and made people feel a little bit better when they leave the theatre. I've never done anything for back slapping purposes, to make myself feel elevated in any kind of way. I'm just so grateful that I've been part of something that has so uniquely left its mark.

I remember a director once told me, "There's only one thing you should do in your life, Richard, and that's realise your dreams. A lot of people will try and stop you achieving those dreams, but the only real person who can stop you is yourself'. I was young and he was old, and it was the first time a grown-up had ever said anything so joyous to me, so wonderfully liberating. Everybody else said, 'Be careful, get a proper job, get your degree as a plumber. Don't get these lofty ideas'. As it says in the show, 'Don't dream it, be it'.

**Why do you think Rocky Horror is still so popular?**

It's very inclusive, it's very easy to watch. It's not rocket science as far as narrative is concerned - Brad and Janet are a couple that we kind of recognise as Adam and Eve or Romeo and Juliet, like a stereotypical couple - we can all relate to them. It's a fairytale. We even like the nasty characters - we love the Cruella De Vil kind of character, Frank N Furter. The fact that it's such lighthearted naughtiness combined with root fairytales has a lot to do with its longevity

**What was happening in your life at the time you wrote The Rocky Horror Show?**

I was a recent father of my first child and out of work when I wrote the show. The period 1972 to '73 was a moment of change. Glamrock and overt sexuality was around, gay people were coming out, and there was a buzz in the air. There are certain parts of the world where we are a little bit more free to be ourselves. London is certainly one of them. Back in the '70s, you had gay bars, but now you don't need to because if you walk into most bars in London there will be a gay man behind the bar. That's rather nice

**What was your inspiration when writing the show?**

I have a very low-brow approach to life I like populist kinds of themes - comics b and rock'n'roll and B movies. The plot and dialogue for The Rocky Horror Show are raids on populist things - from advertising, from comics, from B movies, from sci-fi. It's a complete and utter raid upon all those elements. A joyous raid.

**Do you have a favourite character?**

I would've loved to have played Rocky - that would've been cool, wouldn't it? But one thing is essential; you have to be rather handsome and, you know, muscular, and that ain't going to work. I could have played Janet. They're all so stupidly wonderful, these characters; they're iconographic.

**How do you think the live show compares to the film?**

The live show has an energy that the movie doesn't have. It wasn't intentional, but the film was very slow. Once, some fans came up to me and said, "Did you leave the gaps between the lines so that we, the audience, could say our lines?". I said, "Well, okay, yes". But no, we didn't. The movie is a very surreal, almost dreamlike journey; the live show is far more rock'n'roll.

**What advice do you have for anyone who's new to Rocky Horror?**

None - just come with an open heart and a good will or not at all. I always worry that maybe the fans might steal the evening. I don't ever want the show to be just a few people having fun and the rest of the audience thinking that they've arrived at a party that they weren't invited to.

**What's your favourite part of the show?**

The noise at the end of Rocky Horror is wonderful - it's empowering and exhilarating at the same time. Quite joyous. Rocky never fails to deliver. Each performance lifts the heart, and the nightly laughter and roars of approval leave the whole cast with a sense of wellbeing and accomplishment that you rarely get from any other shows.

**What sets Rocky Horror apart from other musicals?**

When it was written, it didn't follow any kind of formula. The songs aren't showbizzy. So many new musical numbers you hear now, if you didn't know what song it was, you would instantly know it was a Broadway song. I find that a bit annoying. If you're going to spend a bit of money on a night out, it's good to know that you're spending it on something you're going to enjoy. It's a rock'n'roll show with a storyline on one level, it's a fairytale on another level, and it's as enjoyable and silly as a Carry On movie on yet another level.

**“The noise at the end of Rocky Horror is wonderful - it's empowering and exhilarating at the same time.”**

**How different do you think your life might have been without Rocky Horror?**

I have no idea, but I would have had a good life because I'm made that way. My journey has been a different one than others. I guess some people have a game plan. I would imagine they're rather humourless. Most of us get an opportunity and we wing it. Luck plays an awfully big part in our lives. You should never underestimate that. I'm the luckiest person on the planet. I shall be happy as long as I can keep singing.

**The Rocky Horror Show runs at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Monday 13 to Saturday 25 May; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 3 - Sat 8 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Mon 14 - Sat 19 October**

## THIS GAY LIFE:
The Stephen Spinks Column

# THE LIFE OF A BIBLIOPHILE

# TOP QUEER BOOKS

**Anyone who knows me will be aware that I'm often to be found with my nose in a book. Ever since I was a child, I've been something of a bibliophile. The touch, the feel, the smell of a book relaxes me. I'm just not a Kindle kinda guy!**

Gay's The Word, the UK's first LGBTQ bookstore, opened its doors back in 1979

Reading is my go-to meditation. There's nothing better than reaching for a book and curling up on the sofa, sitting in a park or sneaking a quick read on the train. Seeking out fictional or factual stories of people, their lives and experiences that are either similar to or completely different from my own, is my perfect form of escapism.

> "There's nothing better than reaching for a book and curling up on the sofa, sitting in a park or sneaking a quick read on the train"

### WE'RE A NATION OF BOOK LOVERS...

It's no surprise either that I'm in good company. You've only got to spend five minutes on a busy London tube or an hour in a sunny park in Birmingham to see almost everyone at it. We're a nation of book lovers, and ones with ever-expanding libraries. Whenever I'm in London, I always swing by Gay's The Word, the UK's first LGBTQ bookstore that opened its doors as far back as 1979 and continues to stand proud at 66 Marchmont Street. Small but beautifully formed, Gay's The Word is packed full of books of every type and over the years has given me, and thousands of people around the world, a great amount of pleasure. So in the spirit of passing on a great read, I thought I'd share with you my top queer reads to date. Shortlisting the titles was no easy task.

### TALES OF THE CITY BY ARMISTEAD MAUPIN

The first to make the cut must be Tales Of The City by

Armistead Maupin - a great laugh-out-loud series of nine books which Maupin began writing in the late 1970s. The stories deal with the fictional lives of a gaggle of misfits, including Mary Ann Singleton, Michael 'Mouse' Tolliver and Mona, living at Barbary Lane, San Francisco, in the home of Mrs Madrigal. Maupin's work captures the heart and soul of what it was like to grow up in '70s and '80s predominately gay San Fran, incorporating much of the Bay's life as it unfolded in real time, taking many of his readers on a journey of nostalgic escapism. Yet even today, there's something for everyone at Barbary Lane, no matter what generation you grew up in, and it's no surprise that the Tales Of The City books remain as popular now as when they first appeared in the late 1970s. Netflix has just commissioned a series that will come out this year and carries on the story in the present day, as Mary Ann Singleton once more makes a return to her former colourful home. Can't wait!

## MAURICE BY E.M. FORSTER

No list would be complete without E M. Forster's Maurice. Written between 1913 & '14, on the eve of the First World War, when homosexuality was still illegal in Britain, Forster tells a tale of deeply impassioned love between two male characters, Maurice and Alec Scudder. Based on the real-life love story of two of his friends, Edward Carpenter and George Merrill, Forster's work remained hidden and unpublished until 1971, following his death. Taking in the social homophobic attitudes of his time, Forster's Maurice battles with a lifetime of secrecy, passion, blackmail and his overriding desire for same-sex love. In the end, his principal characters get it on and live out their days defying the conventions of their age. This book is a cornerstone of any LGBTQ library

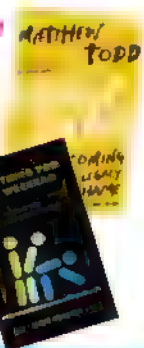
## THE WORKS OF EDMUND WHITE

I must include Edmund White, an internationally famous American novelist and a prolific writer of exceptional talent. His books include A Boy's Own Story, The Farewell Symphony, City Boy and, more recently, Our Young Man, to name but a few. Many of his works are autobiographical, and in them, White is quite rightly unapologetic about his lifetime promiscuity and his HIV+ positive status, all adding fuel to his narrative. The work I love the most and re-read every few years is The Married Man. Written in 2000, it's a really moving, timeless novel about an older man, Austin, who meets and falls in love in Paris with the younger Julien. Their journey together is rife with clashes of culture, age and temperament, as well as the highs and lows of living a complex and somewhat doomed relationship. The end, heart-wrenching and unforgettable, still brings me to tears.

## PATRICK GALE

Another fantastic author who's as well known internationally as Edmund White is UK born and based Patrick Gale. With 19 novels in his canon and bestsellers in abundance, including his latest work, Take Nothing With You, Gale's novels appeal to a diverse audience. His work also includes the Emmy Award-winning BBC drama, Man In An Orange Shirt, based on his own discovery that his father had previously loved another man. In Gale's work, his LGBTQ characters are not always the centre of the story, but his telling of their lives is expertly woven into the everyday events of his narrative. Give him a try.

## JAMES WHARTON & MATTHEW TODD

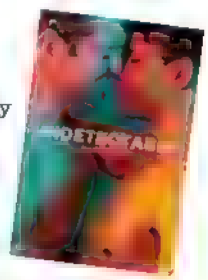



Alongside the novels in my list are two great books by UK based writers James Wharton and Matthew Todd...

Wharton's Something For The Weekend: Life In The Chemsex Underworld is a personal and candid account of his descent into chemsex and the often corresponding overwhelming addiction. His open, honest and non judgemental account has helped raise awareness of chemsex culture not only within but also beyond the LGBTQ community. More importantly still, it's also highlighted the impact which chemsex is having on those caught up in or choosing to be part of that scene. James Wharton is now also Wellbeing Services Manager at Birmingham's LGBTQ Centre

Another great book is by LGBTQ and environmental activist Matthew Todd, the former editor of Attitude Magazine, who wrote Straight Jacket in 2016 Described by Sir Elton John as 'an essential read for every gay person on the planet', Todd's work examines in real depth the impact of growing up gay in a straight world. Using testimony from many interviews he conducted as part of his research, Straight Jacket delves into our past lives, examining our shared need to hide and conform through childhood and beyond. In doing so, Todd explores the deep-rooted damage that this stigma created, and which continues to prevail for so many of us in our everyday adult lives. Something of an eye-opener, his work has had a profound and lasting impact on me, and on so many others who have read it. It's a game changer and an absolute must-read.

## WHAT'S NEXT ON MY READING LIST?




So what's next on my reading list? This one I've yet to start, but up next is a play written by Tom Wright entitled Undetectable, which is currently being performed at the King's Head Theatre in London. Unable to get down to see it in the next month, I've opted to buy a copy of the play to read instead. Marked out as 'a tender, funny, uplifting love story for the post-chemsex generation, exploring the delicate emotions, moral dilemmas and personal demons we all take to bed with us', Undetectable looks under the bed covers and asks us all some pointed questions. Looks like I'm in for a treat.

## LET'S TALK:
The Lacey Lou Column

# Lacey Lou's Quick guide to drag

**We're so lucky to have drag as part of our LGBT+ history! As well as being a vibrant art form and a great creative outlet, it can also be an incredibly powerful tool for building self-confidence and self-esteem. But, where to start?**

**Here's a quick guide to beginning your drag journey... Are you ready?!**

### The Beat

Beat means the mug, the face. Use your drag character to release your creative energy and to experiment. Makeup is an art form in itself, and it can take years to hone your artistic skills. What inspires you artistically at the moment? Use your face as your transformative canvas - there's no right or wrong way with expression, so have fun! Practise, practise, practise.

**Tips & tricks:** YouTube is fantastic for step by step guides, and Pinterest is good for getting inspiration and ideas quickly.

**Products:** Kryolan foundation, pritt stick for eyebrows, Morphe eyeshadow palettes, Copydex adhesive

### Costume

Just as important as the beat is the costume - a great way to get creative Drag doesn't have to be expensive - some of the best costumes I've seen have been made using cheap everyday items. Learning how to make parts of costumes, including head pieces, will not only save you money, it will also develop your skill set and ensure you're truly unique!

**Tips & tricks:** Cable ties and safety pins are a lifesaver, so always have loads on hand. Learn basic sewing. Use unusual and random fabrics and adornments. More is always better - for everything Never leave for the venue until you feel completely secure, otherwise you'll be pulling and poking at yourself all evening - it's uncomfortable and you'll fall apart.

**Products:** Hot glue gun - it will change your life. Rhinestones - everything looks better with them on.

### Weave

The hair is an area that many people undervalue, but a good wig or hairstyle can tie together and elevate a particular look. Lace fronts can be daunting and wigs can be expensive, but it doesn't have to be that way. You can use your own hair, extensions, wigs and multiple wigs. Avoid flat hair until you learn how to style. Body and height in hair is usually more impactful and fun!

**Tips & tricks:** Stack cheap wigs together to make bigger hair. Fancy-dress costume wigs can be used, restyled and spray painted to make something completely unique. Buy synthetic plastic wigs and learn how to wash them at home. Thoroughly spray down loose hairs with hairspray, or they will attach themselves to your eyelashes.

**Products:** Got2B yellow hairspray always. Alcohol and a toothbrush for cleaning lace on lace front wigs Spirit gum adhesive for gluing lace fronts. Buy Kirby grips by the thousands.

## Character/persona

What do you want to put out into the world through your character, and what are your main skills? Comedy, lip-syncing, singing, dancing, hosting? Play to your strengths, and remember .. it's about expression, entertaining and empowering both yourself and those who you meet. Don't replicate what's on TV or in your community - people will want to see *your* ideas and *your* skills! Your character will change and develop as you practise it more, so try not to 'niche' yourself too early; try lots of things and grow as an artist.

**Tips & tricks:** Pick a name you can develop with, one that isn't already used. Short and sweet names are usually the easiest for people to remember. If you're looking to do drag for money, build a brand - people like to know what to expect when booking you.

## History

Knowing the history of your art form is incredibly important. The history of drag is steeped in oppression and protest, which must be respected. The people involved in that history must be honoured and remembered too. Even today, drag is not entirely seen as the credible art form that it is. This is due to residual, stigmatised ideas of gender, expression and sexuality. There are few representations of drag culture in the media, and those that do exist are sensationalised for entertainment purposes. Drag performance through the ages has brought together a combination of things, so learning the art form's history via sources other than RuPaul's Drag Race will be really helpful to you.

**Tips & tricks:** Things to watch are: Paris Is Burning; Milk; Queer As Folk; Party Monster; To Wong Foo Thanks For Everything Julie Newmar; The Adventures Of Priscilla Queen Of The Desert; and Pink Flamingos, to name but a few

## Performance

Whether or not you yearn to be on stage performing, dressing in drag is a performance in itself. Think about how you hold yourself and how you interact with people. If being on stage performing is your calling, practise and research that craft thoroughly Try and use concepts, ideas and music that really interest you. And be passionate - always be passionate! If hosting and aesthetics are your calling, do bold costumes, makeup, hair and really go to town with it! Building an aesthetic is pure performance art and talent, don't just pop on a little dress and some kitten heels - if you want to host, we wanna see ART!

**Tips & tricks:** Learn your words - it really does show if you don't know them, and the audience will focus on it in a negative way. Don't take other people's ideas - the drag community is smaller than you think and they *will* find out. PRACTISE

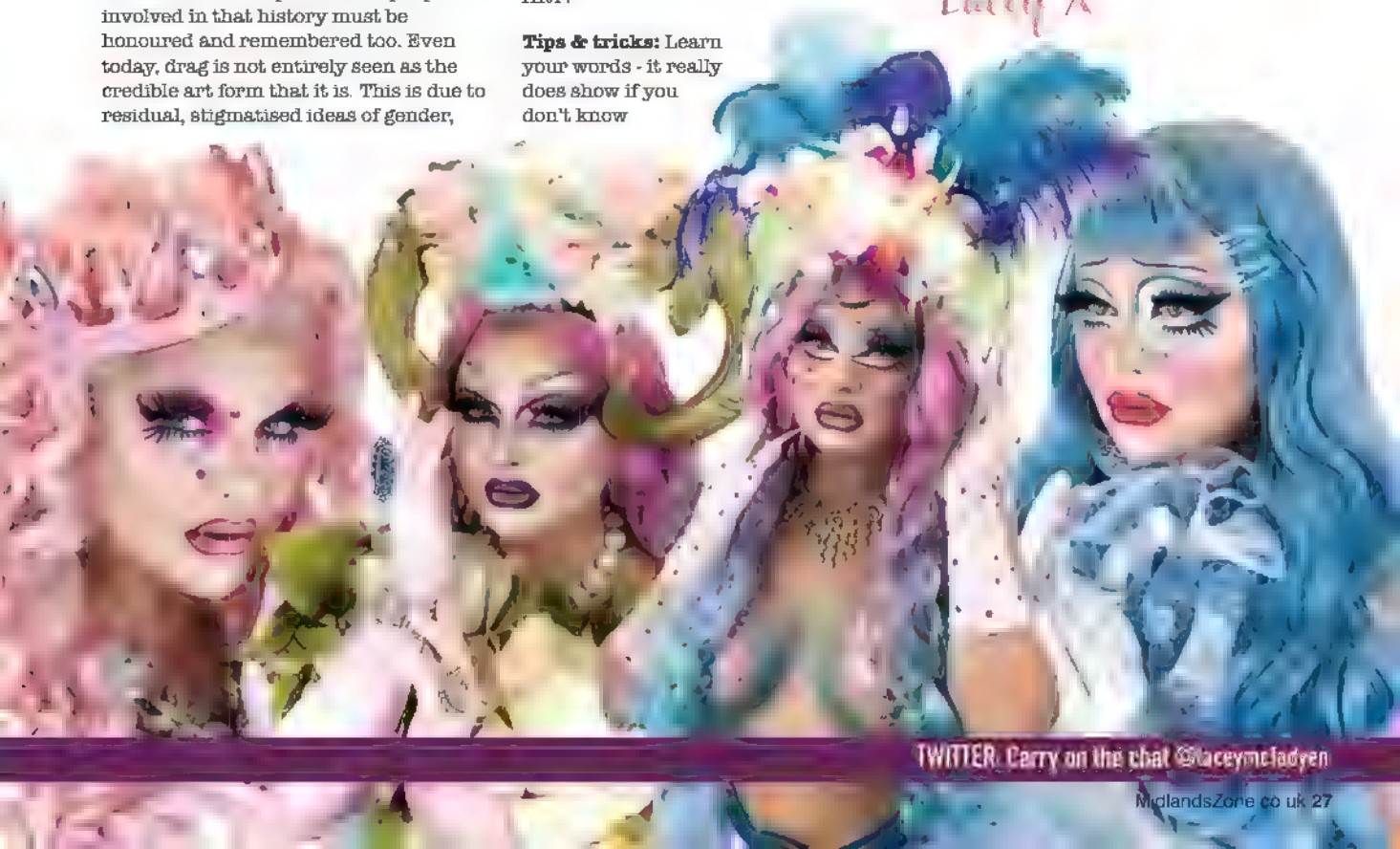
## Social media

Whether you want to do drag for fun or to make money, social media is a great way to promote yourself and connect with other artists and event managers Try and post often, and post everything you do; this gives bookers an idea of what they'll get if they book you. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are the main outlets, but post different things on each one if you can. This gives people a reason to follow you on each of them rather than on just one. Be active on them, comment on things, like and share; this improves your 'reach' to your followers, as these platforms now operate on algorithms of users' online behaviour

**Tips & tricks:** Posting early in the morning and late at night, when people are most on their phones, will help your interaction. Never write things you could later regret.

**Lots of love,**

Lacey X



TWITTER: Carry on the chat @laceymclaglen

# Dedicated LGBT Sexual Health Service

[redacted]

## Sexual Health Services for LGBT People

**Specialist services for:**

- Trans people
- Lesbian and Bi Women
- BAME LGBT people
- LGBT people with a new HIV diagnosis
- Chemsex support
- Those on PrEP

- Free STI and HIV testing – 7 days a week
- Walk-in service
- Free condoms, lube and gloves
- One-to-one and peer group support
- Weekly clinics for those with STI symptoms
- Referral and signposting to appropriate services

**#TESTWITHPRIDE**

by Gudrun

# Brum's FIRST Pride

I have been loitering around the dark and foreboding crevices of Birmingham's Hurst Street for long enough to remember Birmingham's first Pride. It was an exciting build up; we had no idea what to expect, no idea how many people would show up, and not too much idea how they would behave when they got there.

It seemed almost unbelievable that Birmingham could possibly have its own Pride. Now, of course, it seems completely impossible that there was a time when Birmingham *didn't* have its own Pride. Birmingham Pride is now very proudly the UK's largest two-day gay Pride festival.

In the build-up to that weekend in 1997, we spent so long looking at the weather forecast. If it rained, I was definitely going to have to change my outfit. The forecaster wasn't certain. I was exasperated. I changed my mind about what I was going to wear. And then I changed it back. And then it turned out that what I was going to wear didn't fit me anyway. I had a rethink. And then a re-re-think.

There were long conversations about what we were going to drink before we arrived. And when we got there. Talking about drinking so much made us drink so much in the week before Pride that I peaked too soon several times.

We were worried that untoward people would turn up uninvited and make trouble. We were concerned that no-one would show up at all. We were worried that the media would take against the whole thing. We got desperately panicked that the media wouldn't notice us at all.

But I remember that morning of the first day of Pride like it was last week. I opened the curtains and the sun was shining. It wasn't shining, actually - it was blaring. I didn't care what I wore; I threw on the clothes that happened to be by my feet where I was standing. We went straight into town and met other friends. We met outside the Green Room, as I remember - trying to quell our fit-to-burst excitement levels by starting gently. That lasted about 10 seconds.

What I remember most about the day is the smiles. Everyone was smiling. Actually, I'm lying - it wasn't the smiles that I remember most at all. If I were Mary Poppins, I would've remembered the smiles; I would probably have sung about them. But as I'm not Mary Poppins, I remember something much more clearly than the smiles. My overriding memory of that first day of that first Pride is a woman I had never met before running down the street towards me and snogging the head off me before I could even remember that I was supposed to say, 'I have a girlfriend'! Maybe I didn't even remember that I had a girlfriend, I'll take the Fifth on that.

But the sun shone, people smiled, a lucky few got snogged (still smug) and the beer flowed. Even the Champagne flowed. Nobody cared what they wore. Nobody cared who they spoke to. Nobody cared that a few people turned up just to gawp at us - we loved them anyway.

The media loved us. They took photos of gay people smiling and laughing and kissing. The air was full of love. And most of all, the air was filled with Pride.

Quite a few years have passed since then (who's counting??!? Stop it!!), and lots has happened in life, but I'm not sure I have ever felt the pride I felt that year. I was proud of our second city. I was proud of all us denizens of the gay village, and I was proud of the wider Birmingham community, who just carried on like it was all part and parcel of normal life.

**This is a great city.**
**Happy Pride to you all!**

GayLife

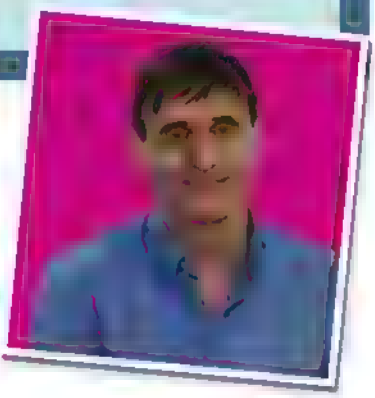
# chem sex

**Know the facts and how to get support.**

**lgbtstoke.co.uk/chemsex**

Gaylife Stoke @GaylifeStoke

ON THE BALL
with
Steve Ball



# (Anti) Social Media

## A helpful reminder to THINK before we TWEET...

The last few weeks have seen a number of people putting their foot in it on social media. Maybe they forgot that the whole world, not just their friends, can see what they have posted.

First, Australia's best-known and best-paid rugby star, Israel Folau, launched a hate-filled online tirade, claiming that "Hell awaits" for "Drunks, Homosexuals, Adulterers, Liars, Fornicators, Thieves, and Atheists".

The Australian rugby union authorities subsequently ended his contract, ruling that he committed a "high level breach of the professional players' code of conduct".

But that didn't stop England and Saracens player Billy Vunipola from rushing to Folau s defence in a lengthy Instagram post in which he claimed "man was made for woman to procreate". Vunipola was booed when he came off the bench for Saracens at Bristol last month. The Rugby Football Union has said that they won't be disciplining him but will remind him of his responsibilities to the game, not least their policies on tolerance and inclusivity, and the consequences if he posts something similar in the future

In many ways it's not too surprising that in the macho world of rugby

*Tweet by Australia's rugby star, Israel Folau*

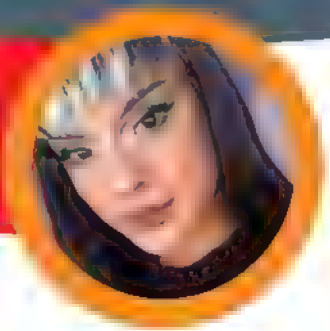
such homophobia exists. But you don't necessarily expect it in musical theatre, where, whilst it's not exactly compulsory to be gay, it's a very LGBT-friendly industry. So I had to look twice when it emerged that actor Seyi Omooba, who had been cast in Leicester Curve and Birmingham Hippodrome's production of The Color Purple, had also posted homophobic stuff on Facebook. She declared that Christians "have begun to twist the word of God when it comes to the acceptance of homosexuality" and that "I don't believe you can be born gay, and I do not believe homosexuality is right. Though the law of this land has made it legal doesn't mean its [sic] right".

What's even stranger is that Omooba was cast as Celie, a bisexual woman whose relationship with another woman is a central part of The Color Purple storyline. Not surprisingly her views didn't go down well with the producers and creative team of the show, and a replacement is currently being found.

It's good that Seyi Omooba has been sacked. She is not the person to tell this intricate and complicated story of love and acceptance. Whether it's sport or art, we need role models who can inspire everyone. And perhaps it's a helpful reminder to us all that careless posts on social media may well come back to haunt us.

# THIS IS ME!

## NEW GENDER, SAME PERSON



**Popular, charismatic and a familiar face on the local gay scene, Birmingham-based Sean Momsen here describes the emotions experienced as a trans person when contemplating gender reassignment surgery.**

**I've always felt different. On Birmingham's gay scene, I'm a brown, 'gender non-conforming' feminine individual. I am the minority.**

I've pretty much identified all my life as cis-male, as a boy who happens to look like a girl. That was my identity, and I was at peace with it.

Lately, however, I find myself steering away from that identity and no longer feeling right referring to myself in that way. And while many things that stereotypically make a 'woman' resonate with me, it's also fair to say that I don't feel like I'm a girl either. It's a hard concept to grasp, but I feel like I'm floating between the two - although I'm more drawn to being a girl and being recognised like a 'girl'.

I've never really met anyone else with the same mentality as my own. I have no problem being referred to as a girl or being treated like a 'girl' etc. Strangers and acquaintances rarely ever call me a boy. Only my friends call me a boy, but they often don't really refer to any gender nouns or pronouns when they talk about me because I'm just Sean. I'm just a human being.

> "after the date he BLOCKED me because, I assume, he knew what was in between my legs"

If I were clairvoyant, I could answer all of the questions I'm repeatedly asked about transitioning. I honestly do not have all of the answers at this point in time. I live my life in the moment and don't plan things. All that I know is that I won't stop learning, discovering and growing.

I recently went on a date with a guy who really put things into perspective for me. Long story short, after the date he blocked me because, I assume, he knew what was in between my legs. During the date, I sensed that he didn't, although I went into the date thinking that he did. Things got intimate when I got back to his, and I messaged him the following day explaining to him that I wanted him to meet me for me, and not to have any prejudice against people like me. But alas, he wasn't ready. I completely understood. I'd been in the wrong, I'd been selfish and I'd broken the barrier of trust.

Safety is a main priority and concern of mine for people like me. That's why we need to be cautious about who we tell these things to. I knew my date wasn't capable of hurting me, but I just wanted him to experience Sean without bias or any preconceived notion. I fell into a

# "My genitals have had a good run. They've served me and my community well by breaking down stereotypes"

rabbit hole of confusion, which is natural. I felt like we connected, and that if I'd had a vagina or had been born a woman, I might have had a success story with this individual.

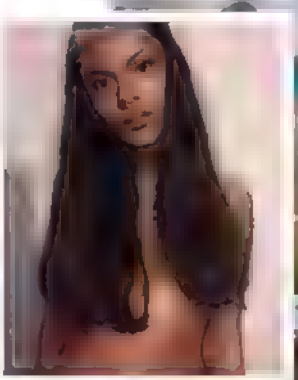
Luckily, several close friends reminded me that I shouldn't have to change for someone - they should want me for me. I've always known that and have pretty much stuck by it, but it's nice to re-affirm your own set of beliefs

This dating failure was a blessing in disguise because I have evolved. I want different things. I'm positive that I want gender reassignment surgery for my own dysphoric reasons. My genitals have had a good run. They've served me and my community well by breaking down stereotypes. I've had the opportunity to open minds, and I can continue to do so because I still lead a uniquely diverse life.

What I want to clarify is that I currently don't feel like either gender, and that's okay. I am starting to disassociate with being referred to as a 'boy', and especially as a 'man'. I don't mind feminine nouns, but even so, I must clarify that I'm not a girl at this present moment in time

Having a vagina will offer me clarity, peace and confidence. It will make my life easier. I don't have any emotional attachment to my male genitals  I'm extremely indifferent to them. They are just some things that get in the way and add to my dysphoria, preventing me reaching my ultimate happiness. .

Change is good, and if I'm feeling positive about something, I should accept and embrace those new feelings. I'm still me.



# 10 YEARS AGO

A look back at Midlands Zone from May 2009

## Birmingham Pride line-up from May 2009

WHO REMEMBERS SCOOCH?

BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE
BIRMINGHAM
pride
Supported by
HSBC UK
• SAT 25TH & SUN 26TH MAY 2019 •
LOVE OUT LOUD
'NO OUTSIDERS'
• BIRMINGHAMPRIDE.COM •

FRI 31 MAY

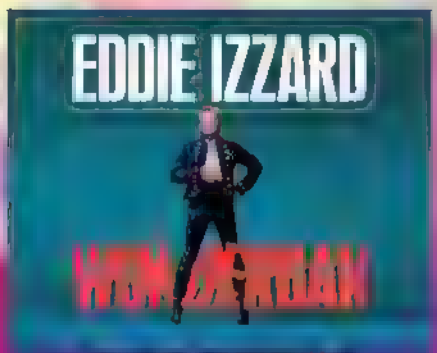
MON 3 – SAT 8 JUN

SAT 22 JUN

SAT 13 JUL

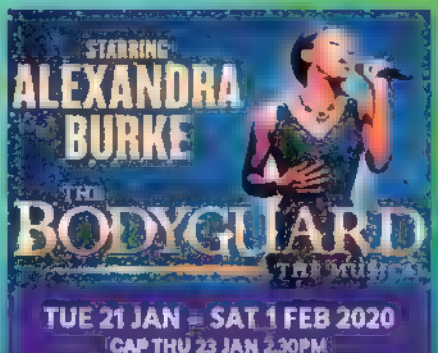
MON 16 – SAT 20 JUL
AD THU 18 JUL 7.30PM

SUN 15 SEP




TUE 17 – SAT 21 SEP

FRI 25 OCT




TUE 21 JAN – SAT 1 FEB 2020
CAP THU 23 JAN 2.30PM
Eg AD WED 29 JAN 7.30PM

HAPPY HOUR
AT THE ALEX
Take advantage of fantastic drinks offers in our Piano Bar before your performance.
6pm – 7pm
Sunday – Thursday

# ALEXANDRA

ATG TICKETS BOX OFFICE 0844 871 3011
ATGTICKETS.COM/Birmingham

AD AUDIO DESCRIBED · CAP CAPTIONED · R RELAXED · Eg SIGNED

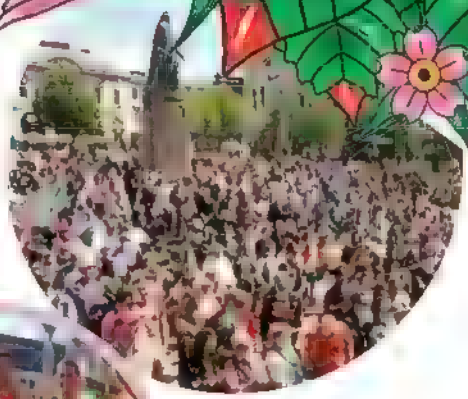
# Welcome to Birmingham Pride

## #BrumPride

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION:
**www.birminghampride.com**

FOLLOW US:
**TWITTER:** @BirminghamPride
**FACEBOOK:** fb.com/PrideBirmingham
**INSTAGRAM:** @BirminghamPrideOfficial

LIVE TWITTER FEEDS THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL.
Get handy tips during the festival and artists' timings as they happen



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NOT HERE TO BE INVISIBLE. YOU ARE THE GLITTERED FACE OF FREEDOM. A RAINBOW OF SELF-EXPRESSION, A FAMILY STANDING TALL ON THE SHOULDERS OF STONEWALL. IT'S NOT ABOUT GENDER, RACE, CULTURE OR RELIGION. JUST PEOPLE. AND LOVE.

# YOU ARE PRIDE

COMING OUT AND WANTING THE WORLD TO KNOW. OPEN TO ALL. ARM IN ARM, HOLDING HANDS. BECAUSE WHEN WE CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES, WE'RE PART OF SOMETHING FAR, FAR BIGGER. YOU ARE NOT AN ISLAND. TOGETHER WE LOVE.

HSBC UK

Together we thrive

# Welcome and 'Love Out Loud'

A very warm welcome to Birmingham Pride 2019. It's incredible to think how far Pride has travelled since 1997, particularly in more recent years.

The event continues to bring together the LGBTQ community with the wider community, and has a strong resonance in the city, the region and beyond.

Birmingham is a city truly proud of its cultural diversity. The Pride festival is a golden opportunity to recognise the rich tapestry of races, cultures and communities which come together to celebrate our equality and freedom. And so it's fitting that this year our theme is simply 'Love Out Loud'.

This year we're delighted to present our most diverse line-up of Pride Festival artists to date. They will be performing across six stages, with new locations for both the Cabaret Stage and Main Stage - see our Pride map on page 10 for all the locations.

May I wish everyone who attends Birmingham Pride 2019 a very happy, safe and memorable time.

Lawrence Barton - Birmingham Pride Festival Director

We're exceptionally proud to have our new headquarters in the Midlands, and equally proud to continue our support of Birmingham Pride - an important recognition of the huge amount of work that has been done to improve the inclusion of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals from all backgrounds.

We take pride in driving inclusion in and championing diversity in all its forms, and we work hard to make HSBC a place where people feel they can be themselves, and where our workforce is as diverse as the customers we serve.

We're especially honoured to be leading out the parade this year, with more than 200 employees and their friends and families expected to participate in what promises to be a fantastic weekend.

Hello and welcome to Birmingham Pride 2019. Pride makes a vital contribution to our local economy and, most importantly, to our regional identity. The event helps to put Birmingham on the map as a major entertainment city; and as a progressive, inclusive place where everyone is welcome.

Our region's strength and potential lies in the youth and diversity of its population, and Pride Festival serves as a vibrant example of that.

This year we launched our Inclusive Leadership Pledge, recognising that we must all do more to celebrate LGBTQ role models in the West Midlands today, so that we can inspire our LGBTQ leaders of tomorrow.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate all those that have been working hard over the last year to bring this festival together. Thanks go to our fantastic venues, organisers and community leaders for their determination to bring us all an enjoyable, relaxed and memorable weekend. I hope you have a truly fabulous Birmingham Pride 2019.

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands

Welcome to Birmingham Pride 2019.

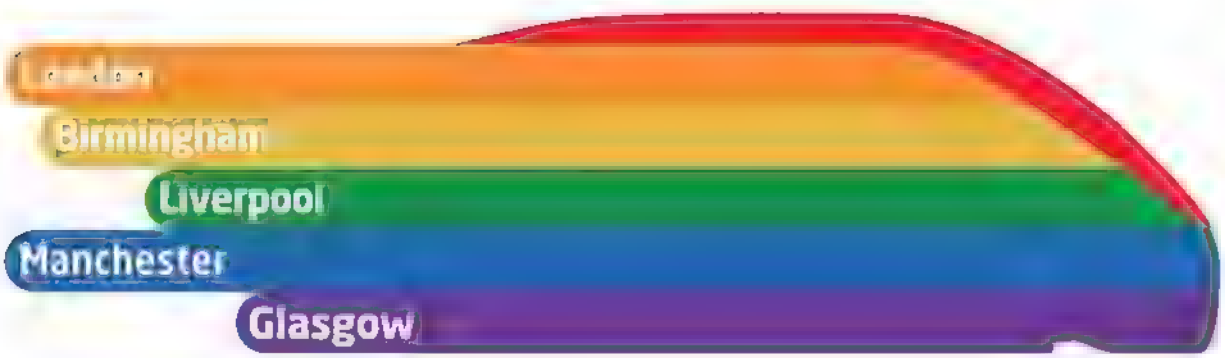
One of the undoubted highlights of our cultural calendar, the Pride festival is an annual reminder to the world that Birmingham is a city where all communities live, work and play together.

Birmingham Pride is a celebration of equality and freedom, but also a reminder that though a great deal of progress has been made since the first Birmingham Pride in 1997, the fight for LGBTQ rights continues.

The Pride festival has grown from strength to strength over the last 22 years, and I have no doubt that this year's event will be yet another triumph, thanks to the tireless work of the organising team.

So, whether you're from Birmingham or visiting the city, have a fantastic time at Birmingham Pride 2019.

# #RIDE WITH PRIDE



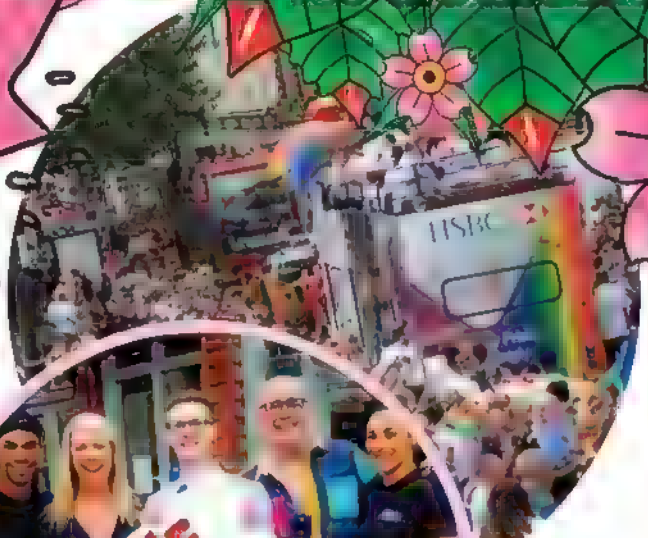

Virgin trains

Virgin Trains are PROUD to be the main stage sponsor of Birmingham Pride.

# Love Out Loud

supporting 'No Outsiders'



**This year, Birmingham Pride's theme is 'Love Out Loud'. In a world where oppression and persecution of the LGBTQ+ community still exists, teen suicide continues to be a major issue and trans rights are being pushed back - even in countries considered to be progressive - now is the year to 'Love Out Loud'.**

Birmingham Pride 2019 is a celebration of our right to love, not only each other but ourselves too, and to do it LOUD - no matter your gender, sexuality, personal identity, colour, religion or race.

Pride will also be endorsing and supporting the award-winning 'No Outsiders' educational programme, which runs in Birmingham schools and is currently under threat.

The 'No Outsiders' programme was devised in 2014 by Andrew Moffat, assistant head teacher at Parkfield Community School in Birmingham's Saltley district. We're delighted that Andrew will be leading the Pride Parade. The aim of the programme is to teach children about subjects including sexual orientation and religion, both of which are personal characteristics protected by the Equality Act.

'No Outsiders' has recently come under threat. Some parents at Parkfield have said that they don't feel same-sex relationships is an appropriate subject to be teaching to children at primary school. As a result, the lessons have currently been put on hold.

Please join us in showing support for 'Love Out Loud' and the 'No Outsiders' programme, an initiative which is doing excellent work in helping children to learn about and understand the world around them.

# TAKE OFF WITH PRIDE

## FLY DIRECT TO LOS ANGELES FROM MANCHESTER

**Virgin Atlantic fly direct from Manchester to**

NEW YORK | BOSTON | ATLANTA | ORLANDO | LAS VEGAS | BARBADOS

MAG Manchester Airport | virgin atlantic | HOLIDAYS

# 'Love Out Loud' Pride Parade

## Sat 25 May

**Victoria Square,**
**Birmingham City Centre**

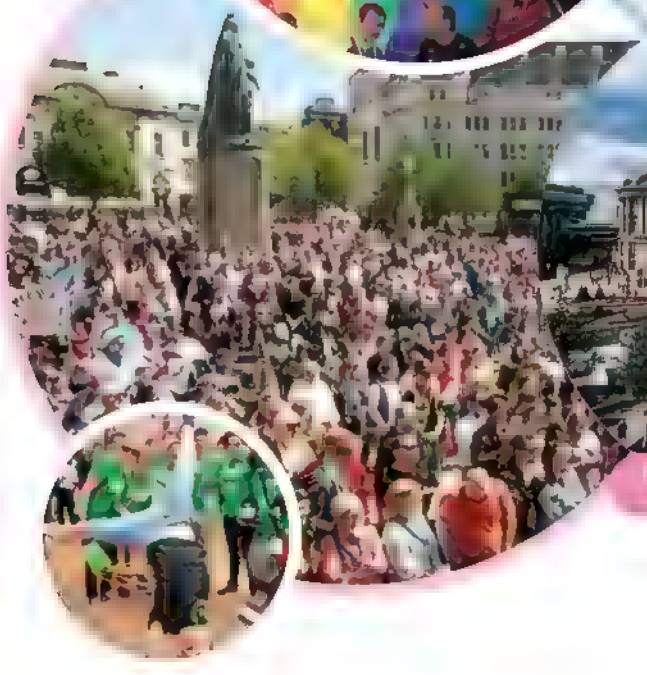
**Saturday 25 May 2019**
**Assemble from 10.30am**
**Sets off at 12 noon**

## This year's theme...

## LOVE OUT LOUD

Following Birmingham Pride's official opening ceremony, the parade sets off at 12 noon precisely, along the best parade route ever!

It will wind its way around the city centre and then down to the top of Hurst Street, by the Birmingham Hippodrome.





SUPPORTING

'NO OUTSIDERS'

Black Cabs ONLY
TAXIS
PAY ON THE DAY BOOTHS
ARCADIAN CAR PARK
Bromsgrove St
11
BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE
GLAMOROUS
1
2
BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME
CLONE ZONE
3
MISSING BAR
4
Thorpe Street
Inge Street
Hurst Street
ALL TICKETS/ WRISTBAND EXCHANGE HERE
Black Cabs ONLY
TAXIS
Essex Street
5
THE LOFT
VIP LOUNGE @ THE PENTHOUSE
THE NIGHTINGALE
9
FOOD COURT
LOS ANGELES CABARET STAGE
LIP SYNC STAGE & FUTURE STAGE
CREW & RESIDENTS WRISTBAND EXCHANGE HERE
Bristol Street
Essex Street
Kent Street
Bromsgrove St
AMUSEMENT 13
10
THE FOX
8
Gouch St. North
FOOD COURT
Kent St
NO GLASS or ALCOHOL are ALLOWED to be taken into the pride site
There are lots of bars and food outlets on site
VIRGIN TRAINS MAIN STAGE

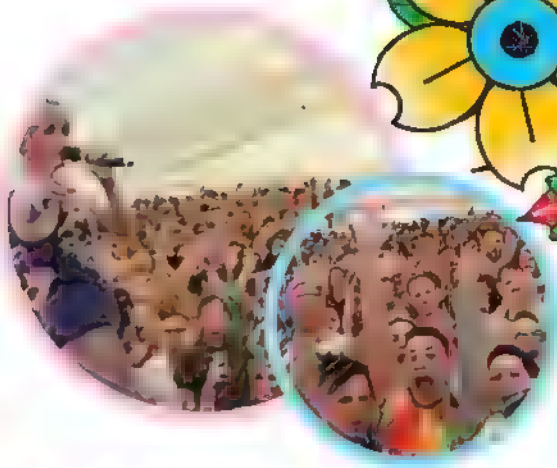
Birmingham Pride Map
PERSHORE ST MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK
Pershore Street
Have a safe and happy Pride
Private Hire Point
Hurst Street
Skinner Lane
THE VILLAGE INN
6
PAY ON THE DAY BOOTHS
MIXMAG DANCE ARENA
WOMEN'S AREA
7
EDEN BAR
Lower Essex Street
Sherlock Street
Venue Map Key
A big thank you to these highlighted venues for supporting and helping to make the production of this guide possible!
1 Glamorous (See advert on page 24)
2 Birmingham Hippodrome (See advert on page 44)
3 Clone Zone (See advert on page 52)
4 Missing Bar (See advert on page 28)
5 The Loft (See advert on page 30/31)
6 The Village Inn (See advert on page 26/27)
7 Eden Bar (See advert on page 20/21)
8 The Fox (See advert on page 32)
9 Nightingale Club (See advert on page 16/17)
10 Amusement 13
11 Birmingham LGBT (See advert on page 60/64)
ALSO OTHER GAY VENUES INCLUDE Bar Jester, Bolts, Chic, Equator, Fountain Inn, Sidewalk, and The Core.
Site Map Key
Pay on the day booth
Ticket/wristband exchange
Event control & lost children
First aid
Venues
Toilets
TAXIS
Taxi pick up/set down
Controlled entry/exit
NO EXIT

# Love doesn't require instructions

At IKEA we provide equal opportunities for everyone and we support our LGBT+ co-workers' right to be themselves.
#BeYourself #LoveIKEA

Find out more about LGBT+ inclusion at **IKEA.co.uk**

IKEA



# Ticket & Wristband Info

## DISCOUNTED ADVANCE TICKETS

**Save £££s** and get your tickets in advance:

ONLINE: www.birminghampride.com IN PERSON: Clonezone Birmingham

## Ticket/Wristband Exchange

**If you have purchased a ticket either online or from a ticket outlet, you will need to exchange your ticket for a wristband when you arrive...**

### [illegible]

Ticket/Wristband Exchange will be available a couple of days in advance from **The Nightingale Club** on Kent Street, from: **4pm until 12 midnight on Thursday 23 May and also from midday to midnight on Friday 24 May.**

### TICKET/WRISTBAND EXCHANGE BOOTHS:

This is ONLY available at the top of Hurst Street (just down from the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre on Inge Street) at the following times:

**Sat 25 May from 9am until 10pm**
**Sun 26 May from 11am until 8pm**

**Please note:** Delays are expected between 1pm and 2pm on Saturday 25 May due to the volume of people - so try and avoid these times if at all possible.

*If you're a member of the Pride crew, staff or a Southside resident and you've been sanctioned with a wristband, your ticket/wristband exchange is ONLY on Bromsgrove Street/Essex Street.*

## Buying a WRISTBAND on the day

**If you haven't purchased a ticket in advance, you will still be able to buy a Wristband over the Pride weekend.**

**PAYING BY CASH:**
Day and Weekend Wristbands over the Pride festival can be purchased by cash at all entry/exit points - see the map on page 8 for the locations of the different wristband pay booths.

**PAYING BY CREDIT CARDS:**
If you want to buy WRISTBANDS over the Pride weekend using a Credit/ Debit card, this facility is available at all pay booths.

**NO CONCESSIONS:**
But please note that there are **NO CONCESSIONS** available for children, seniors or family Wristbands if you buy at the gate - these tickets are ONLY available in advance online.

Wristbands 'at the gate' will cost more than buying in advance.

## Important Wristband info...

Wristbands must be securely fastened or may be void.

Wristbands must be intact, in one piece and worn at all times.

Torn or ripped wristbands will not be accepted for entry.

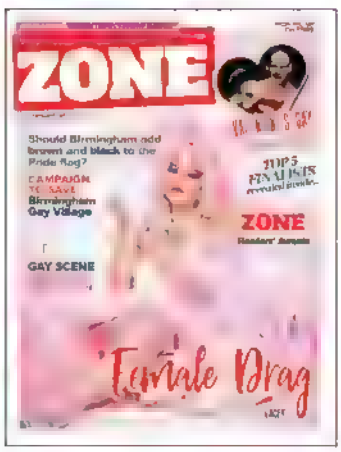
Lost wristbands will not be replaced under any circumstances, and if you are not wearing a valid wristband, you will be asked to leave the festival site.

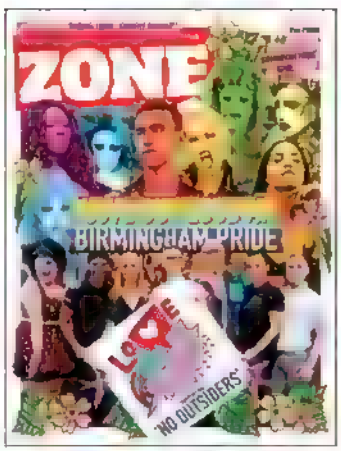
Wristbands are not transferable between visitors.

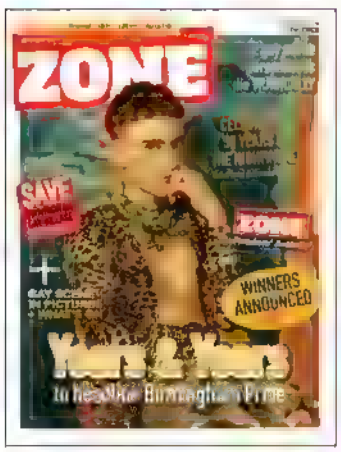
Wristbands are required for drink purchases at all venues and outdoor bars within the main festival site

# PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER TO BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

## EVERY YEAR SINCE 1997!

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# Virgin Trains Main Stage

## Sat 25 May

**1pm - 4pm**

Alice Chater
Lady Leshurr
M.O

**4pm - 7pm**

Kate Nash
MYA
Mabel

**7pm - 9pm**

Sigala
Years & Years

**9pm - Midnight**

Local DJ's

The Main Stage is sponsored by

Virgin trains

## 50 YEARS OF A QUEER ICON

| THURSDAYS | FRIDAYS | SATURDAYS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| £1 DRINKS | [illegible] | CHEAP DRINKS |
| FREE ENTRY TILL 11PM | [illegible] | FREE ENTRY TILL 12PM |
| 2 FLOORS OF MUSIC | [illegible] | 3 FLOORS OF MUSIC |

[illegible]

THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB
TICKETS £10
THE BIG GALE PRIDE PASS
ENTRY FRI 24TH, SAT 25TH AND SUN 26TH
AT THE NIGHTINGALE OF BIRMINGHAM PRIDE
TICKETS: WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK

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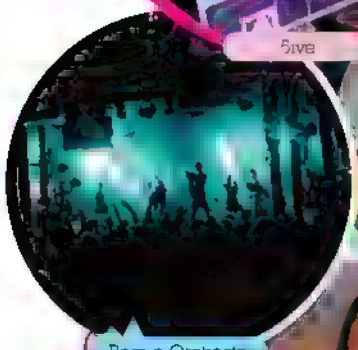
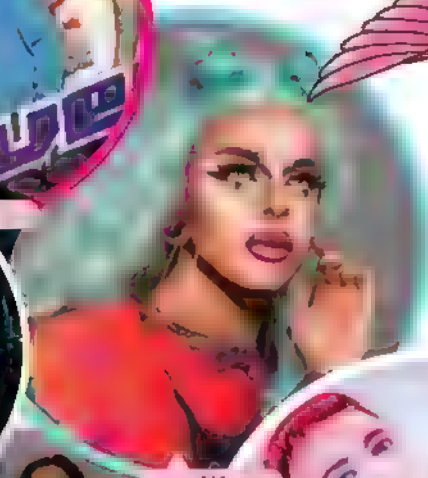
ROYAL BALLET
WE ARE EXPRESSIVE
WE ARE ADVENTUROUS
WE ARE UNIQUE
WE ARE TOGETHER
WE ARE BIRMINGHAM
#WEARE BRB
Supporting and celebrating
PRIDE IN BIRMINGHAM
brb.org.uk
Tzu-Chao Chou. © Claire Luxton

# Virgin Trains Main Stage

## Sun 26 May



**2pm - 5pm**

Glittersh*t
Rogue Symphony Orchestra
5ive

**5pm - 7pm**

AJA
NAO
Marc Almond

**7pm - 10pm**

Human League
Faithless (DJ SET)

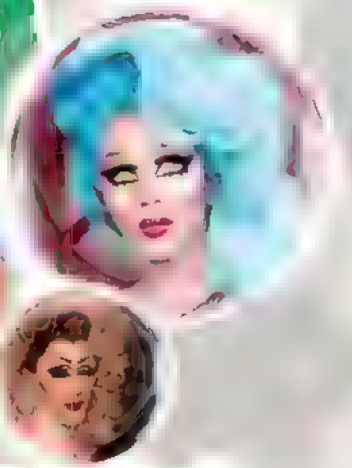
**10pm - Midnight**

Local DJ's

The Main Stage is sponsored by

Virgin trains

# PRIDE SATURDAY



FANNY BURNS

BRENDA LABEAU

CHARLIE HIDES

THE DOLLY SHOW

LADY GAGA
DONNA MARIE

MADONNA
MELISSA TOTTEN

MARY MAC

CLAIRE RICHARDS

FREE
ENTRY

SUNDAY PRIDE
VIVIENNE LYNSEY
ALISON MOYET
JACQUII CANN
ROGUE MINOGUE
CHERYL HADLEY
SHIRLEY BASSEY
RACHAEL ROBERTS
CHER
TANIA ALBONI
DANNY BEARD
LA VOIX
TOTALLY TINA
JUSTINE RIDDOCH
eden

Birmingham LGBT

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## Sexual Health Services for LGBT People

**Specialist services for**

- Trans people
- Lesbian and Bi Women
- BAME LGBT people
- LGBT people with a new HIV diagnosis
- Chemsex support
- Those on PrEP

- Free STI and HIV testing - 7 days a week
- Walk-in service
- Free condoms, lube, dams and gloves
- One-to-one and peer group support
- Weekly clinics for those with STI symptoms
- Referral and signposting to appropriate services

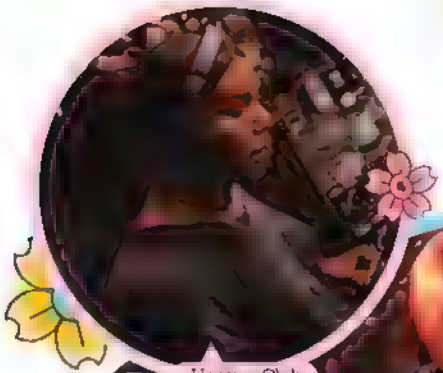
# Get tested from home for STIs including HIV

**Order your free kit now:**

**umbrellahealth.co.uk/testing**

# Mixmag Dance Arena

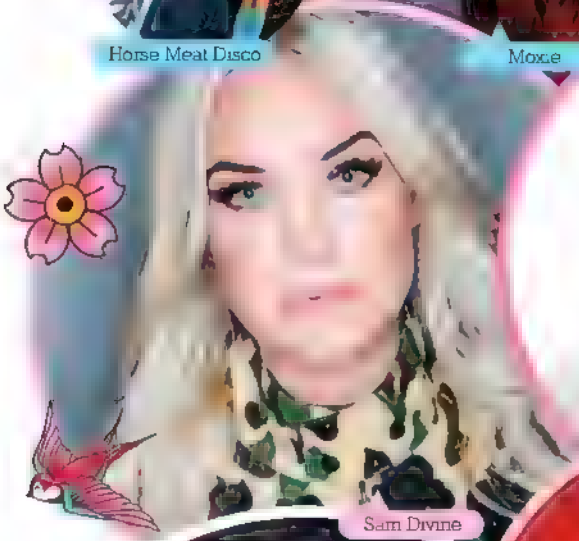
## Sat 25 May



Hooker Club

Horse Meat Disco

Moxie



Sam Divine

Black Madonna

Octo Octa

Dance Arena from last year

**2pm - 4pm**

Adonis
Hooker Club

**4pm - 7pm**

Moxie
Octo Octa

**7pm - 10pm**

Black Madonna
Horse Meat Disco

**10pm - Midnight**

Sam Divine

The Dance Arena is sponsored by

mixmag

# GLAMOROUS

# BIRMINGHAM PRIDE WEEKEND

PAM CATZ

## THURSDAY

OPENS FROM MIDNIGHT TILL 6

MIKE EMMERY

## FRIDAY

OPEN 10PM TILL 6AM!

ROCKELLA | PAM CATZ

## SATURDAY

OPEN MIDDAY TILL LATE

TRISHA

## SUNDAY

OPEN 3PM TILL LATE!

## 23 - 24 - 25 - 26 MAY 2019

ALBANY HOUSE - HURST STREET - BIRMINGHAM - B5 4BB

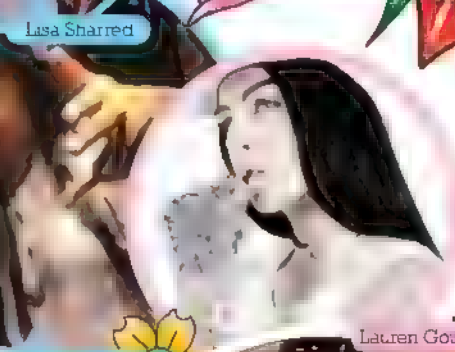
# Mixmag Dance Arena

## Sun 26 May

Sophia Essel

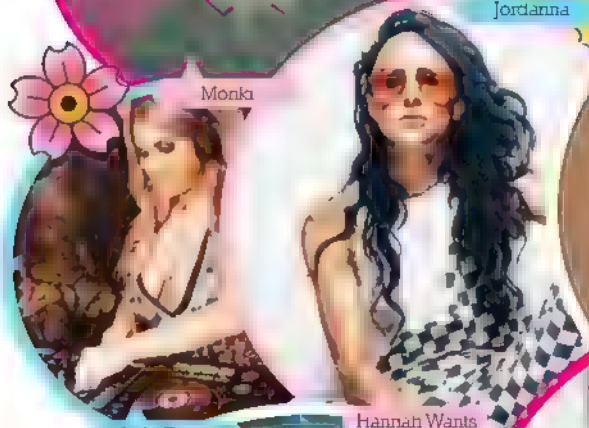
Lisa Sharred

Monki


Jordanna

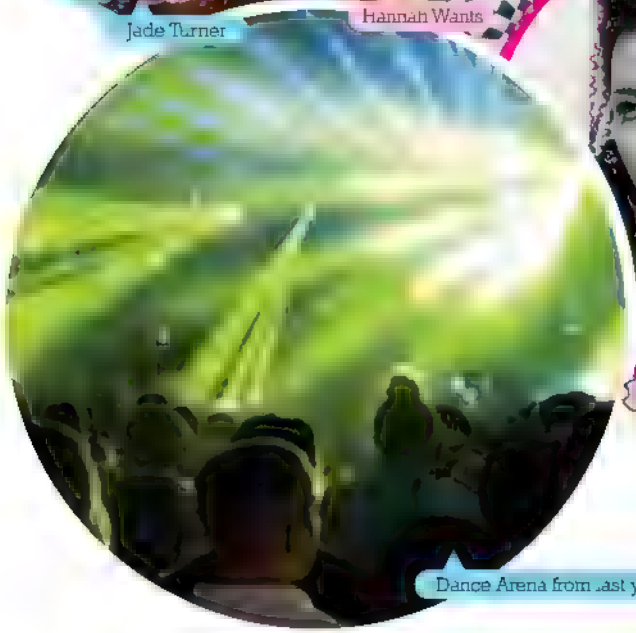
Lauren Goulder

Fleur Shore


Jade Turner

Hannah Wants

Jaguar


Dance Arena from last year

**2pm - 4pm**

Lauren Goulder
Sophia Essel

**4pm - 7pm**

Jordanna
Jade Turner
Lisa Sharred

**7pm - 10pm**

Jaguar
Monki
Hannah Wants

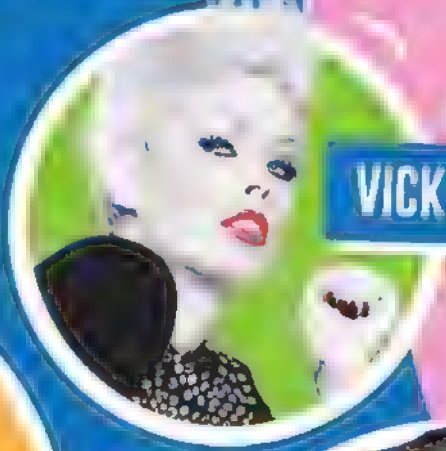
**10pm - Midnight**

Fleur Shore

The Dance Arena is sponsored by

mixmag

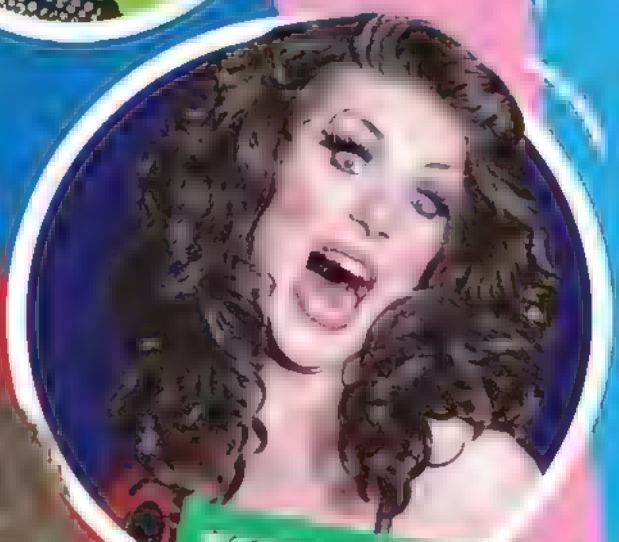
# VILLAGE INN



VICKY JACKSON AS PINK

FRI 3RD MAY

MISS PENNY



TOPSIE REDFERN

FRI 10TH MA

MISS MARTY

MAY

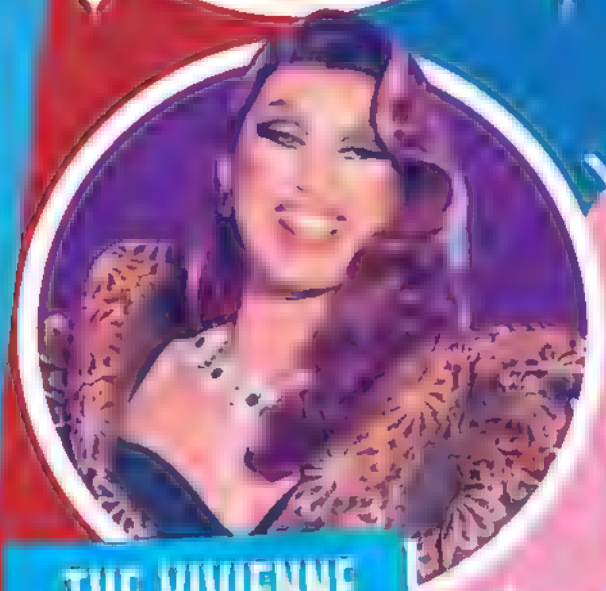
PRIDE 2019

# BIRMINGHAM

FRI 24TH MAY

DRAG WITH NO NAME
-
SANDRA LONDON

SANDRA LONDON



THE VIVIENNE

SUN 26TH

@VILLAGEBRUM

# Missing

## MISSING BAR
## CABARET STAGE

ALFIE ORDINARY
DONNA TRUMP
MARTHA D'ARTHUR
CRYSTAL LUBRIKUNT
CHERRY LIQUOR
HOUSE OF ALLURE BURLESQUE
TWIGGY
DIVINE MISS M
AMY LAQUEEFA
DAHLIAH RIVERS
JENNA DAVINCI
Gavina Vagina

BIRMINGHAM pride

FROM 6PM BOTH NIGHTS OUTSIDE MISSING
SATURDAY 25TH AND SUNDAY 26TH MAY

# The Los Angeles Cabaret Stage

## Sat 25 May

**1pm - 4pm**

Stage opens with Samba band
Sandra
Drag With No Name
Miss Thunderpussy

**4pm - 6pm**

KY Kelly
Heart and Souls
Tanya Hyde
Poppy Cock

**6pm - 9pm**

Lola Lasagne
Twiggy
Baga Chipz
Martha D' Arthur
Divina De Campo

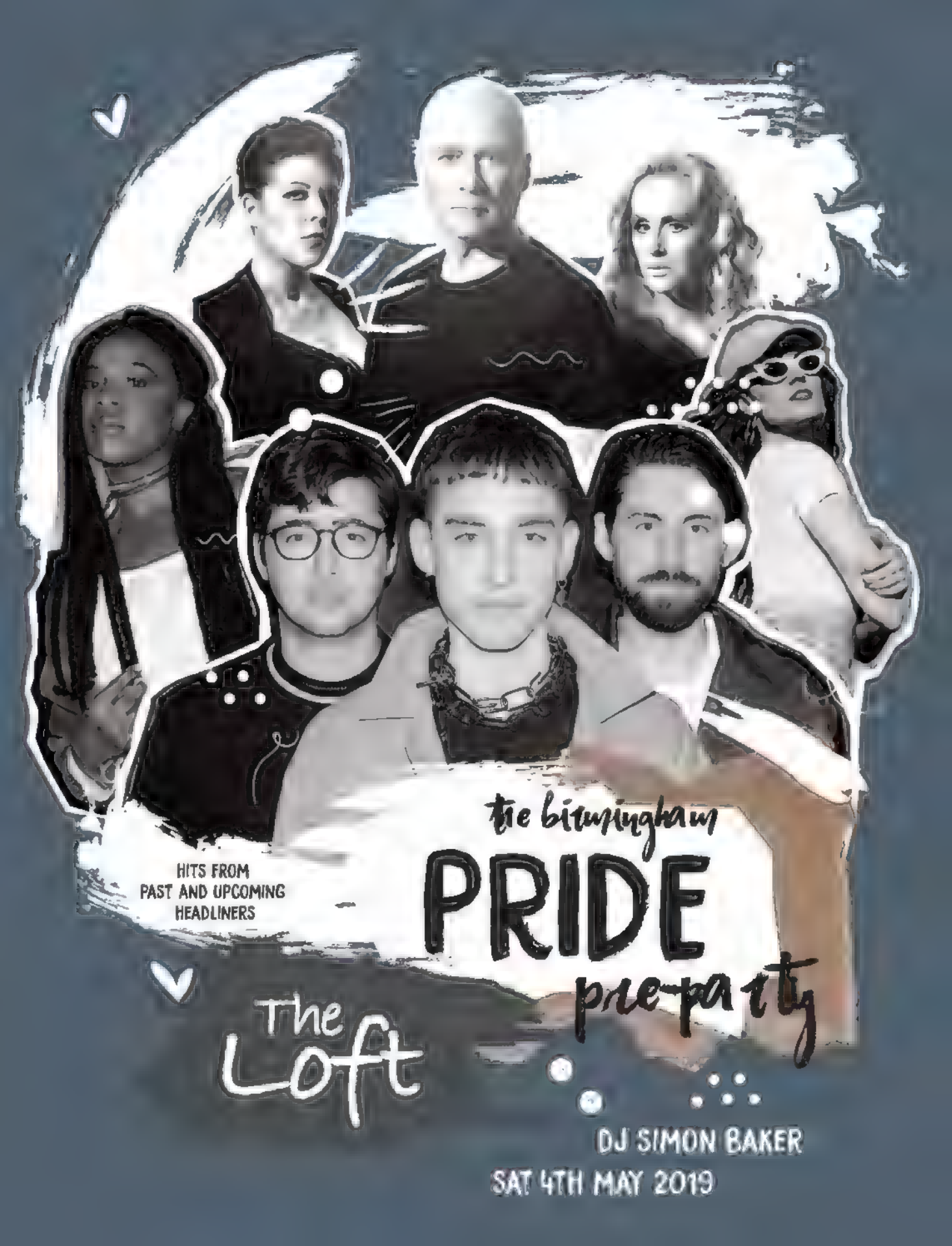
**9pm - Midnight**

Miss Penny
The Vixens
The Vivienne
Gals Aloud

The Cabaret Stage is sponsored by

MAG Manchester Airport | virgin atlantic | HOLIDAYS

LOS ANGELES DIRECT


the birmingham
PRIDE
pre-party
HITS FROM
PAST AND UPCOMING
HEADLINERS
The Loft
DJ SIMON BAKER
SAT 4TH MAY 2019

# WEEKLY DEALS

**MONDAYS**
## 2 COCKTAILS £10
ANY 2 COCKTAILS £10 ALL NIGHT

**TUESDAYS**
## 3 SMALL PLATES £10
OR ANY 5 FOR £15

**WEDNESDAYS**
## WINGS + DRINK £10
KILO OF WINGS + SELECTED DRINK

**THURSDAYS**
## PIZZA + PINT £10
ANY PIZZA + PINT FOR £10

**FRIDAYS**
## FIZZ + CHIPS £10
FRESH FISH + CHIPS WITH PROSECCO

**SAT + SUN**
## BRUNCH
AVAILABLE FROM 12PM

**SUNDAYS**
## SUNDAY ROAST
BEEF, CHICKEN, VEGGIE, CHEF'S CHOICE

# BIRMINGHAM PRIDE 2019

2 DAYS OF LIVE DJ'S – OPEN FROM 12 MIDDAY TILL LATE
FREE ENTRY ALL WEEKEND

THE LOFT TEAM WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY BIRMINGHAM PRIDE 2019

WWW.THELOFTBRUM.CO.UK

@THELOFTBRUM @THELOFTBRUM LOFT 8 BIRMINGHAM

143 BROMSGROVE STREET BIRMINGHAM ~ 0121 622 2444

National Trust

# Proud to be at Pride

Many of our places were home to and shaped by people who challenged conventional ideas of gender and sexuality. We are proud to tell their stories and to be attending Pride, supporting the LGBTQ+ community today.

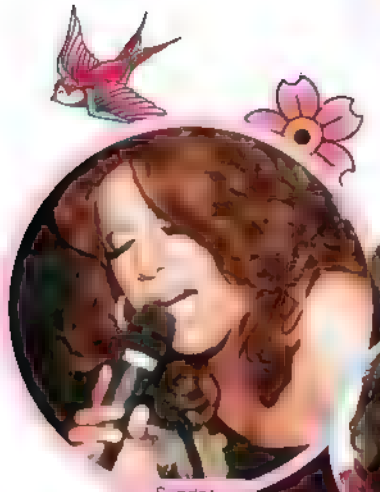
## For ever, for everyone

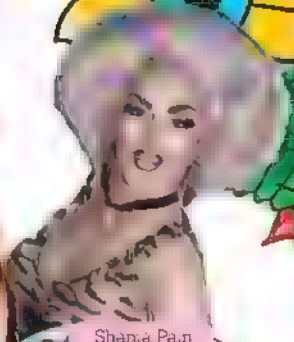
**Explore our LGBTQ+ stories**

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/exploring-lgbtq-history-at-national-trust-places

# The Los Angeles Cabaret Stage

## Sun 26 May



**2pm - 4pm**

Sandra
Glitter Lips
Amy LaQueefa

**4pm - 6pm**

Miss Marty
Dave Lynn
Kelly Wilde
Kara Van Park

**6pm - 9pm**

Shania Pain
Sum Ting Wong
Topsie Redfern

**9pm - Midnight**

Marsha Mellow
The Vivienne
Vicky Jackson

Hosts: Sandra and Miss Marty

The Cabaret Stage is sponsored by

LOS ANGELES DIRECT

# GAYTIMES

AMPLIFYING QUEER VOICES

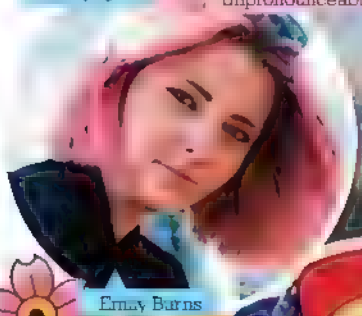
**PABLLO VITTAR**
for Gay Times Magazine

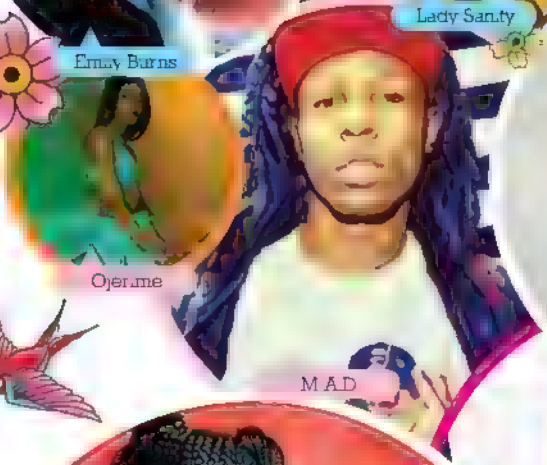
SCAN TO FOLLOW
ON INSTAGRAM

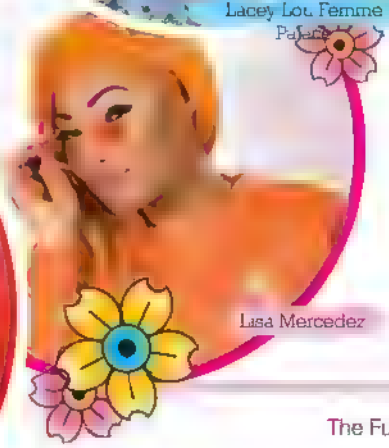
The Future Stage is held in the Nightingale Club

# Spindle Future Stage

## Sat 25 May








**2pm - 4pm**

Unpronounceable +
Lady Sanity + Miyagi
Kill Glass

**4pm - 6pm**

Emily Burns
Ojerime
Lacey Lou Femme

**6pm - 8pm**

Kaiit
Lisa Mercedez
Leikeli47

**8pm - 10pm**

Moho
M-A.D

The Future Stage is sponsored by

Spindle

WESTLIFE
20
THE TWENTY TOUR
14 NUMBER 1 S 20 YEARS OF HITS
& JUNE
THIRD AND FINAL SHOW ADDED
23 JUNE
ARENA BIRMINGHAM
LIVENATION.CO.UK TICKETFACTORY.COM
WESTLIFE.COM

Sandwell
Children's Trust
life changing is...
Foster with us
Tuesday 18th June at 6.30pm
Wednesbury Library, WS10 9EH
Wednesday 17th July at 6.30pm
Coneygre Youth Arts Centre, Tipton DY4 8UH
JOIN US!
0800 358 0899
www.sandwellchildrenstrust.org
or visit SandwellFostering

The Future Stage is held in the Nightingale Club

# Spindle Future Stage

## Sun 26 May

**1pm - 4pm**

DragPunk
The Clause
Sophie Lou
Abisha

**4pm - 6pm**

Sophie Whittaker
Andrea di Giovanni
Nakhane

**6pm - 9pm**

Hungama
Call Me Loop
Ashnikko

**9pm - 10pm**

Rico Nasty

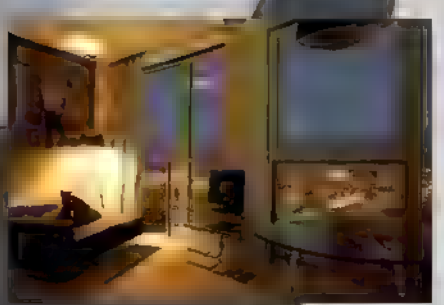
The Future Stage is sponsored by

Spindle

STYLE
BIRMINGHAM
STYLEBHAM.COM

WIN!

*A luxury two night stay at Staying Cool Apartments and two VIP Weekend Tickets for Birmingham Pride!*



Head to **stylebham.com** for your chance to win!

Model Ed @AlanShermanAgency

# NEW! Lip-Sync Stage

The NEW Lip Sync Stage is located on the middle floor of The Nightingale Club

NEW STAGE!

Hosted by Yshee Black, Blanche and Dahliah Rivers

## Sat 25 May

**from 4.30pm**

China Queen
Peaches Monroe
Jelly Cube
Drag Punk
Narcissa Nightshade

**7pm-10pm**

Ashleigh Marc
Cosmic Crum
Rodent
Flick d'Bean
Vicky and Luna
Big D
Tanja McKenzie

## Sun 26 May

**from 4.30pm**

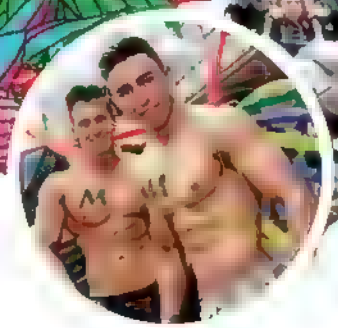
Cocktail Sausage
Riley Vyrus
Ezra Skag
Mothers Meeting
Tayce

**7pm-10pm**

Rii Rii Lepour
Cycki Brokat
Crayola
Soyora Marchelle
Rujazzle
Frans Gender
CJ Banks

*Get set to celebrate...*

# Street Party



**Not only are there SIX stages at Birmingham Pride this year, there's also our not-to-be-missed Street Party to enjoy, featuring a great Streetfood Court & Beer Garden, a fabulous funfair, numerous market & community stalls and, of course, all your favourite gay bars and clubs!**

## Women's Area!

Situated once again outside Birmingham's infamous lesbian bar, The Fox, the Women's Area features a host of DJs to get you in the party mood.

Award-winning cabaret artist Amy LaQueefa will be performing live on stage, and there'll be plenty of special guest appearances, too!

## Thrill-seekers funfair!

Fancy some adrenaline-pumping white-knuckle excitement? Then check out this year's funfair rides, located around the festival site. Who knows, you might just end up having the best ride of your weekend!

## Community & market stalls!

Pop by the stalls over the weekend and see what the various community groups are getting up to.

You'll also be able to pick up a bargain or two from the numerous market stalls.

*If you haven't already booked a stall, you might still be able to get one! Email christina@eventmen.co.uk for more information.*

## Streetfood Court!

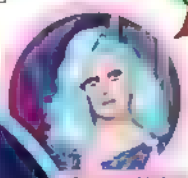
Once again there'll be plenty of delicious grub being served up by a host of streetfood outlets in our two Streetfood Court areas - one located near the Virgin Trains Main Stage, the other by the Los Angeles Cabaret Stage.

Whether you want a simple burger, a hotdog, noodles, vegetarian and vegan options or gluten-free choices, we've got it covered.

## Party until the early hours

# Gay Nightlife

Enjoy a great night out over the Birmingham Pride weekend at the many gay scene bars and clubs where you can party into the early hours. Here's some of the highlights advertised in this guide..


Charlie Hides

Eden Bar

Claire Richards from STEPS

Nightingale Club

## Eden Bar

Friendly bar on Hurst Street with the biggest line-up of live acts - over the Pride weekend including Claire from Steps no less
Check out page 20 and 21

## Glamorous Nightclub

Check out the fabulous Pam Catz, Mike Emmery, Rockella and Trisha over the Pride weekend - and it's open until very very late!
Check out page 24

## The Nightingale

Birmingham's largest gay venue, celebrating 50 years in 2019 and offering 3 floors of music, 4 rooms and 5 bars.
Check out page 16 and 17

The Loft

Glamorous

The Village Inn

Pam Catz

The Vivienne

## The Loft

Popular venue specialising in premium spirits, cocktails and craft beers.
Check out page 30 and 31

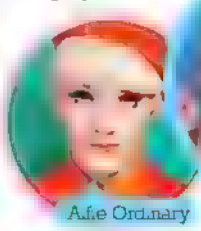
## Missing Bar

A warm welcome is guaranteed at this recently refurbished gay bar in the heart of the Gay Village. They've got their very own outside cabaret bar over Pride too!
Check out page 28

## The Fox

Birmingham's premier lesbian bar will also be hosting the Women's Area again - featuring the Amy La Queefa show.
Check out page 32

Amy LaQueefa


Ashe Ordinary

Donna Trump

Missing Bar

## The Village Inn

Popular cabaret bar in the heart of the Gay Village and home to some of the biggest names in drag
Check out page 26/27

# I CAN'T PASS ON HIV.

**People on effective HIV treatment cannot pass on the virus.**

IT STARTS WITH ME

Terrence Higgins Trust

Get the facts
StartsWithMe.org.uk

# HAPPY PRIDE 2019

from all of us at

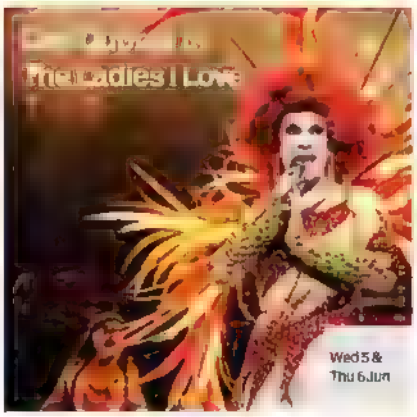
Birmingham Hippodrome!

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

0844 338 5000* birminghamhippodrome.com

*Calls cost 4.5p per min plus access charge

Tue 28 May - Sat 8 Jun

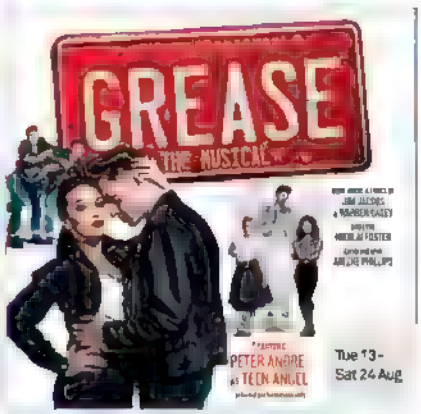


Wed 5 & Thu 6 Jun

Tue 2 - Sat 13 Jul

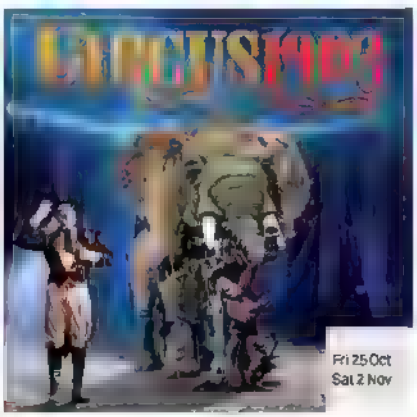
Sat 13 & Sun 14 Jul

Tue 16 - Sat 20 Jul



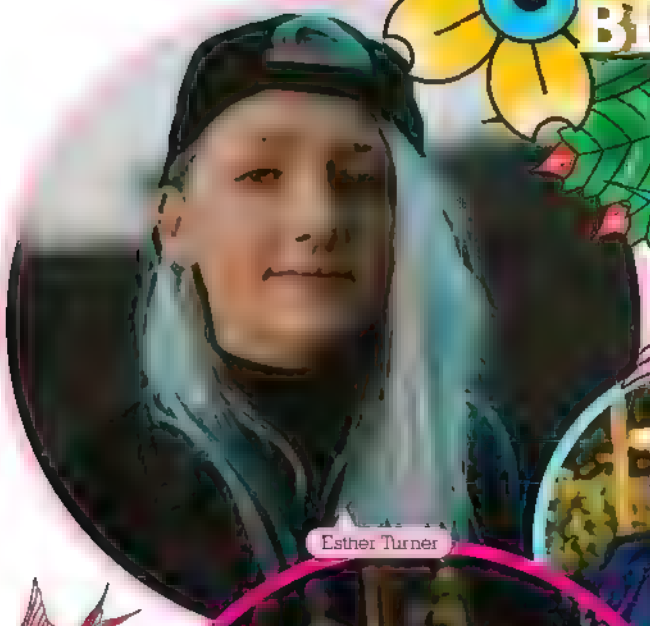
Tue 13 - Sat 24 Aug

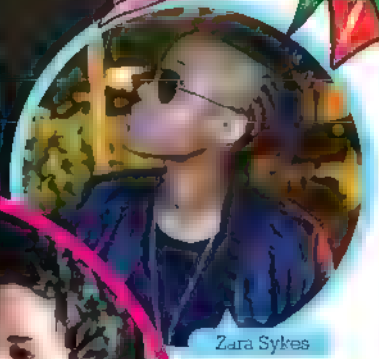
Tue 3 Sat 7 Sep


Fri 25 Oct Sat 2 Nov

Sat 21 Dec Sun 2 Feb

# Birmingham LGBT Community Events


Esther Turner


Zara Sykes

The Favourite

Bohemian Rhapsody

**FREE LGBT ACTIVITIES**

## Sat 25 May

from 2pm

Acoustic Musicians featuring:

Zara Sykes
Esther Turner
and more

Pride open area with food, music and badge-making

Film Screening:
**BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY**
at 5pm

Pride quiet area upstairs

## Sun 26 May

from 1pm

Paul Burston presents
Polari Prize Tour
Creative Writing Workshop
as part of the Polari Prize Tour show at The Electric Cinema from 1pm

Dr Graham Beards talks about
Birmingham's Gay Liberation Front from 3pm

Rainbow Bridge - crafts takeover from 3pm

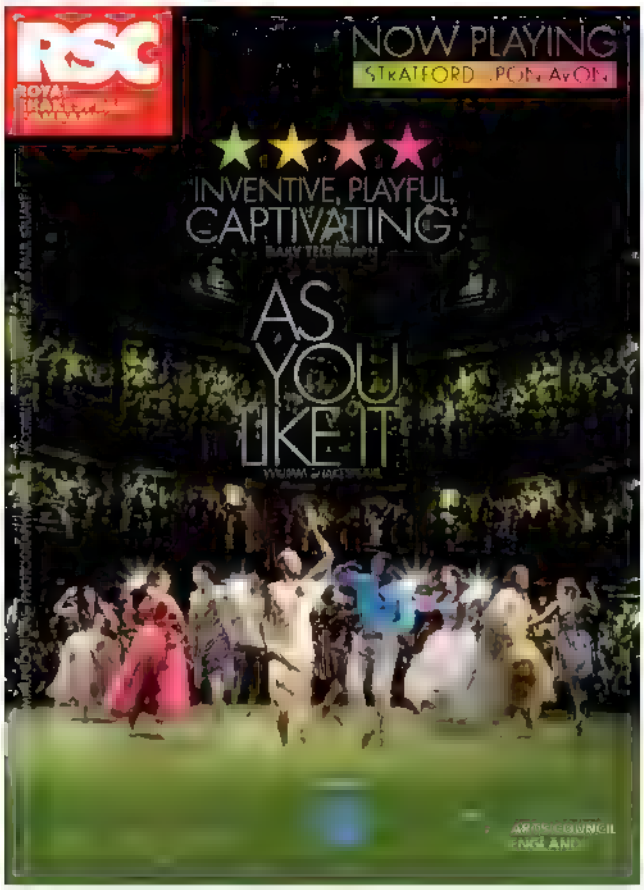
Film Screening
**The Favourite**
from 4pm

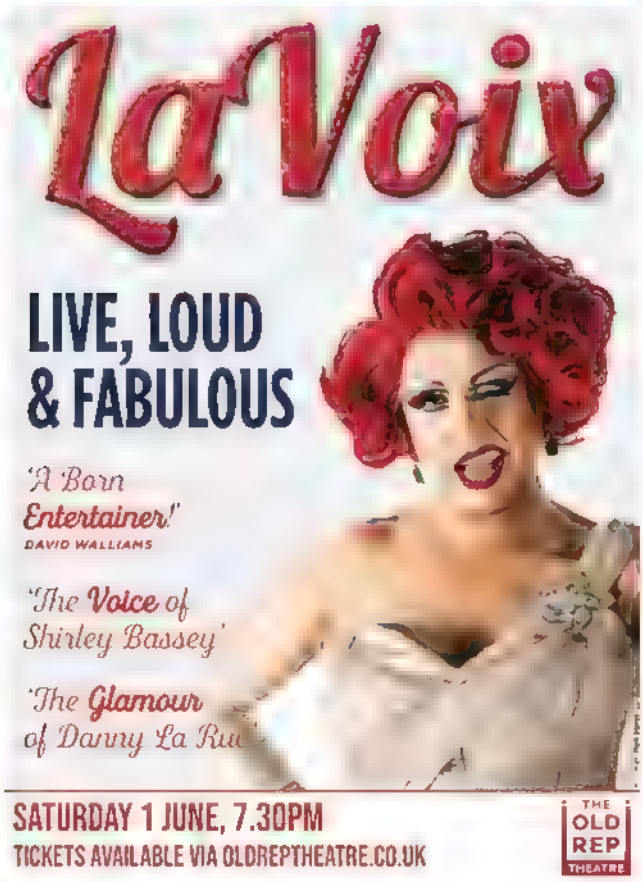
Pride open area
Badge-making
all day

The Birmingham LGBT Centre is located at 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ.

B RM NGHAM CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SUMMER FIESTA!
Join Birmingham's Friendliest Orchestra for the close of their 10th anniversary season with a concert full of summer sunshine, and music to put a smile on your face and fire in your belly!
Including music from West Side Story, Bizet's Carmen, Copland's Hoe Down from Rodeo...and many more!
Conductor Jack Lovell
June 15 3.00pm
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire B4 7XR
BOOK NOW AT BCSO.ORG.UK

JOIN US AT THE REP THIS AUTUMN & WINTER
PRIDE & PREJUDICE* (*SORT OF)
12 – 16 NOV
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
The National Theatre's landmark production of J. B. Priestley's classic thriller
30 NOV – 19 JAN
PETER PAN
A striking new version of J. M. Barrie's swashbuckling adventure
REP
BIRMINGHAM-REP.CO.UK


RSC
NOW PLAYING
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
★★★★
'INVENTIVE, PLAYFUL, CAPTIVATING'
AS YOU LIKE IT


LaVoix
LIVE, LOUD & FABULOUS
'A Born Entertainer'
DAVID WALLIAMS
'The Voice of Shirley Bassey'
'The Glamour of Danny La Rue'
SATURDAY 1 JUNE, 7.30PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA OLDREPTHEATRE.CO.UK
THE OLD REP THEATRE

Great live shows in Birmingham,

# City of Culture

## What's On across the city...

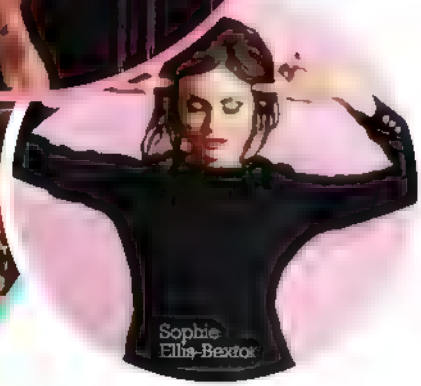
**Birmingham Pride takes place in the heart of the city's Southside district, in and around the Gay Village and alongside one of the UK's largest theatres, the Birmingham Hippodrome.**

**Just a short stroll from the Gay Village are numerous other theatres/arts venues that are well worth a visit. These include the Alexandra Theatre, the Birmingham REP, Birmingham Town Hall and the prestigious Symphony Hall.**

**For art enthusiasts, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is a must, while those in need of sustenance can check out some of the city's ever-popular restaurants and cafe bars.**

**For further info about what's on, visit: www.whatsonlive.co.uk/birmingham**

Maureen Younger @ Giggle Pride



## Some events you might be interested in...

**Rocky Horror Show**
The Alexandra Theatre, 15-25 May

**Rotterdam award winning trans comedy**
The Rep, 20-22 May

**Giggle Pride feat. Maureen Younger,** The Fox, 27 May

**Julian Clary**
The Alexandra Theatre, 31 May

**Captain Corelli's Mandolin**
The Rep, 29 May 15 June

**LaVoix - Live, Loud & Fabulous**
The Old Rep, 1 June

**Sophie Ellis Bextor**
Symphony Hall, 8 June

**Ceri Dupree - The Ladies I Love**
Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome 5 & 6 June

**BCSO Summer Fiesta**
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, 15 June

**Birmingham Royal Ballet**
Birmingham Hippodrome 12-15 & 19-22 June

**Jess Glynne in Concert**
at Wolverhampton Racecourse 31 August

GET
PRIDE
READY

# MAILBOX

BIRMINGHAM

*mailboxlife.com*

SHOP the latest looks at Harvey Nichols, Emporio Armani, Boss, Paul Smith, Tommy Hilfiger and more

Enjoy a pre-Pride PAMPER at Flint + Flint, Malmaison Spa, Toni & Guy Essentials or Nicky Clarke

Sip on a cocktail and dine at one of our **CANALSIDE RESTAURANTS**

And when the party's over, stay at one of our two **BOUTIQUE HOTELS...**

**SHOP • PLAY • STAY • PAMPER**

**HOW TO FIND US**

The Mailbox is conveniently located right in the centre of Birmingham, five minutes on foot from New Street Station and only five minutes' walk to the Gay Village.

**Arriving by car?** There are more than 600 car spaces in the Mailbox. Use B1 1RD for SatNav

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Shopping Highlights

# Let's Shop

Dr Martens store in the Bullring

Selfridges at The Bullring



Clonezone

Harvey Nichols

The Bullring

The city offers everything you could want from a shopping destination. As well as its three major shopping centres - Bullring, Grand Central and The Mailbox - it also boasts a wealth of independent shops and boutiques, with Corporation Street featuring some of the biggest names on the high street. Just a short bus ride away is the iconic Jewellery Quarter, home to all things sparkly!

## Things not to miss while you're in town shopping at Bullring...

### **Gaydio** Live Broadcast from the Bullring...

If you're an early riser, check in between 7am and 10am to hear Jessie and Matt from Gaydio, who'll be broadcasting their show live from Bullring on Saturday 25 May. Bullring and Grand Central will start the build up to the weekend's activities with entertainment from duo Fantabulousa.

### Beach ready at St Martins

Check out the launch of Bullring's Beach Bar, situated on St Martin's Balcony & Terrace (just by St Martin's Church and Selfridges) on Saturday 25 May.

### Get into the groove...

Topshop and Topman in Bullring will be hosting live entertainment over the Pride weekend. Visitors will be able to get into the party spirit alongside stilt walkers, dancers and DJs.

### Birmingham Bull takes Pride in his dress...

The iconic Bullring Bull will be celebrating this year's Birmingham Pride with a new 'themed' outfit. Last year's event saw him don some seriously good headgear (as pictured left), but we're reliably informed that he'll be taking things up a notch in 2019. His 'exciting' Pride attire will be unveiled on Friday 24 May.

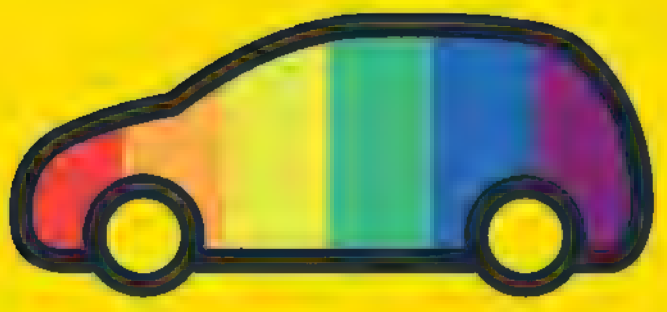
Make sure you stop by during the weekend to grab a selfie with the eighth most photographed landmark in the UK.

No visit to Birmingham is complete without popping into the legendary Harvey Nichols. The upmarket department store stocks many designer brands to help you look and feel great for Pride, including Gucci, Alexander McQueen, Tom Ford & Chanel.

And if you're looking for some new underwear for Pride weekend, then check out the latest ranges from the world's leading designer underwear brand, Calvin Klein

### Clonezone - Hurst Street

No shopping feature would be complete without mention of Clonezone! It's situated on the Birmingham Pride site, so be sure to pay a visit.



# We're proud all year round.

We're proud to support
**Birmingham Pride.**

Stonewall DIVERSITY CHAMPION

Arnold Clark

# Staying Over

## Over 8,000 beds to suit every budget

**Are you visiting Birmingham from elsewhere in the country? If so, there's plenty of accommodation available in the city centre, with over 8,000 beds to suit every taste and budget.**

Amongst the best places to stay is the stunning Radisson Blu, a 39-storey glass skyscraper, or the totally refurbished Holiday Inn - both located on the outskirts of Birmingham's gay village and just a five-minute walk away from the weekend's action.

Other nearby accommodation includes the luxury Staying Cool penthouse apartments at the top of the Rotunda, providing stunning views across the city.

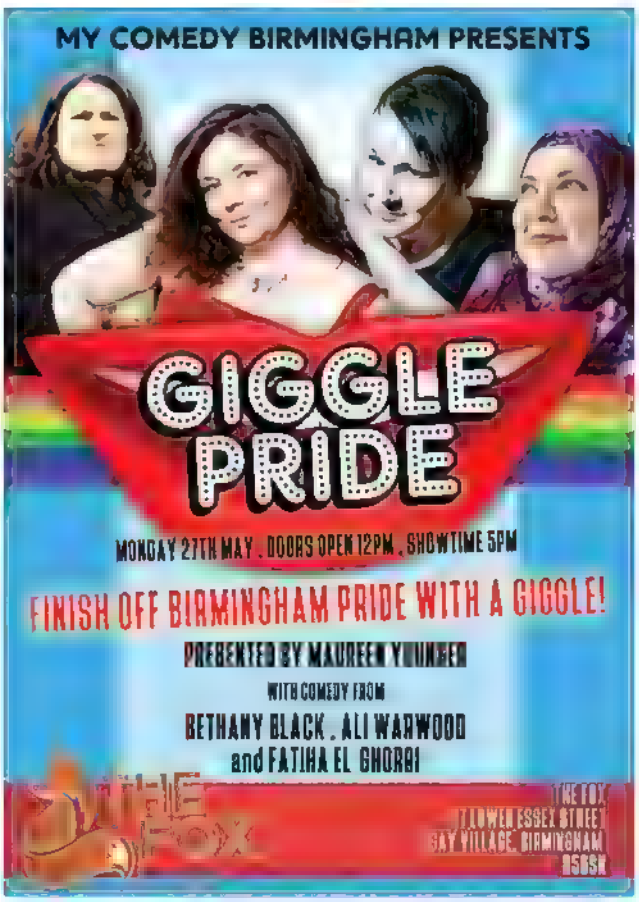
If you're on a tighter budget, the Ibis, Travelodge, Ibis Budget and Nite Nite are all just a stone's throw from Birmingham's gay village.

For a full list of Birmingham's hotels - and for more information about the city itself - visit

Staying Cool at the Rotunda

Radisson Blu

Holiday Inn Express Hotel in the city centre


MY COMEDY BIRMINGHAM PRESENTS
GIGGLE PRIDE
MONDAY 27TH MAY . DOORS OPEN 12PM . SHOWTIME 5PM
FINISH OFF BIRMINGHAM PRIDE WITH A GIGGLE!
PRESENTED BY MAUREEN YOUNGER
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# DIVA
## MUSIC FESTIVAL

11–14 October 2019 | Sandford Holiday Park, Poole, Dorset

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

divamusicfestival.com

# Treat yourself to... VIP and Premium Tickets

## Get the VIP experience...

If you fancy attending Birmingham Pride in style, take a look at our fantastic VIP tickets! There's a whole host of benefits that come with the tickets - check them out below:

- Meet-and-greet opportunities with selected artists **PLEASE NOTE:** meet-and-greets cannot be guaranteed
- A complimentary drink and also food served in the VIP lounge at the Penthouse (see map for location) VOUCHERS for this are tabs on your WRISTBAND.
- Main Stage & Cabaret Stage viewing areas at the front of the stages with bars for VIP/Premium Ticket Holders

There's a limited number of VIP tickets available - so grab yours while you can, as they're proving popular!

## or Premium tickets...

Want to be right at the front of the stage in our inner circle viewing area? Then this is the ticket for you!

- Main Stage & Cabaret Stage viewing areas at the front of the stages with bars for VIP/Premium Ticket Holders.

# Being out doesn't rule me out

Barclays Bank UK PLC. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Financial Services Register number: 759676). Registered in England. Registered No. 9740322. Registered office: 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP.

# A great chance to...

# WIN! A £2000 holiday to Los Angeles

Manchester Airport, the UK's third largest airport, is making it a hat-trick of years supporting Birmingham Pride by returning as sponsor of the Cabaret Marquee.

For 2019 Manchester Airport is bringing onboard Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Holidays, with the Cabaret Marquee transforming into the Los Angeles Cabaret Stage.

As well as stage sponsorship, the airport and airline will be in attendance all weekend to join the parade and shout about all things LA, as a new route from Manchester to the US city launches with Virgin Atlantic on the Sunday of the Birmingham Pride weekend.

To mark the sponsorship, the airport and airline has launched a competition for one lucky entrant to win a £2,000 trip to Los Angeles with Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Holidays.

All you need to do to be in with a chance of winning is enter your details at birminghampride.com.

The competition closes at 5pm on Sat 25 May 2019. All entries are subject to T&Cs (see website for details).

## TO ENTER:

**To be in with a chance of winning, simply enter your name and email address on our website at:**

www.birminghampride.com

**Competition closes at 5pm Sat 25 May 2019**

Manchester Airport | virgin atlantic | HOLIDAYS

LOS ANGELES DIRECT

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For job opportunities in Customer Services, Digital & IT, Finance & Actuarial, Property & Construction, Sales & Marketing and much more.

Search for your next career move at
careers.legalandgeneralgroup.com

Here with Pride in Birmingham

We are what we do

NatWest

# How to find us!

**Sat Nav Postcode**
**B5 6RD**

## LOCAL TRAVEL ADVICE:

If you are visiting the city,
**Network West Midlands**
provides journey planning and information for all public transport in the area. They have travel and ticket advice available at
www.networkwestmidlands.com/birminghampride

## BY COACH

**National Express** www.nationalexpress.com

National Express operates coach services to Birmingham from all major towns and cities across the UK. Please use the journey planner for cheap ticket deals and travel times.

## BY BUS

National Express West Midlands and other operators provide frequent bus services into Birmingham city centre from across the West Midlands
To plan your bus journey visit
http://journeyplanner.networkwestmidlands.com

## BY TRAM

**Midland Metro** operates up to every 6 minutes and provides fast and frequent journeys from Wolverhampton, West Bromwich and the Jewellery Quarter into Birmingham City Centre. http://nxbus.co.uk/the-metro/

## BY TRAIN

**National Rail Enquiries**
www.nationalrailenquiries.co.uk

**West Midlands Railway**
www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/

**Virgin Trains**
www.virgintrains.co.uk

**Chiltern Railways**
www.chilternrailways.co.uk

See if you can spot the Birmingham Pride coach around the city!
It's kindly sponsored by National Express.

## FROM NEW STREET TRAIN STATION

- Exit the station onto Stephenson Street (new exit/entrance)
- Walk approx 300 yards to the road junction

For the Gay Village:

- Take a left at the road junction. Walk down to the traffic lights. Cross straight over onto Hurst Street.
- The Pride site entrance point and wristband exchange is 50 yards after you pass the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre

For the parade:

- Take a right at the road junction
- Walk up to the top of Hill Street.
- Take a left and Victoria Square is on the right, in front of the Council House

## FROM THE M6

- From Junction 6 of the M6 follow the signs for Birmingham Central
- Follow the A38 (M) for two miles (signs for the city centre)
- At the end of the motorway, take the flyover signed M5 South West
- Coming off the flyover, pass under the tunnel, following signs for Inner Ring Road South
- Take the next tunnel (Queensway).
- Follow signs for Bromsgrove A38, which takes you to a third underpass.
- On surfacing, get in the left-hand lane, take the 2nd left (Wrentham Street) Go to the bottom, take a left, then third left. The Arcadian car park is on your left.

## FROM THE M5

- From Junction 4, follow the signs for Birmingham along the A38 through Northfield and Selly Oak.
- Going over the traffic lights at Bristol Street (McDonalds on your left), move into the left lane (signed BR New Street).
- Passing the 02 Academy on your left, move into the right-hand lane
- Turn full circle at this roundabout (Holloway Circus)
- Take fourth left (Wrentham Street). Go to the bottom, take a left, then third left. The Arcadian car park is on your left. Directly outside the car park is one of the entrances to the Pride site.

# Bridge The Gap

Over 50 isn't 'over the hill'. Find out why by bridging the gap between youth and experience.

Ageing with Pride

Birmingham LGBT

bvsc the centre for

Contact us:
0121 643 0821
info@ageingwithpride.co.uk

## Disabled facilities at Pride

# Accessible to all

We are fully committed to ensuring that Birmingham Pride is accessible to every visitor, all the time.

If you have any queries, or need assistance during your visit, just get in touch with a member of staff, who will be happy to help.

### WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Birmingham Pride is accessible to wheelchair users

Wheelchair users who have purchased a VIP or Premium Ticket will be able to admit one ticketed carer The carer's ticket must be applied for prior to the festival.

### ASSISTANCE DOGS

Assistance dogs are welcome at Birmingham Pride. However, we strongly recommend not exposing animals to any arenas that could be particularly noisy

### SIGNED PERFORMANCE

This year, Birmingham Pride is introducing registered signing interpreters on both the Virgin Trains Main Stage and the Los Angeles Cabaret Stage

### MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

In the event of a medical emergency, please notify a member of security or any member of staff, a steward or festival volunteer that assistance is required.

### DISABLED FACILITIES

You'll find gender neutral wheelchair-accessible toilets throughout the festival site

See our Pride Map for details of the locations of the toilets.

### ACCESS IN BIRMINGHAM

It s important to us that everyone visiting Birmingham Pride has the best possible experience from the moment they arrive in the city.

For information on blue badge parking, public transport guides and more, visit visitbirmingham com/travel/accessible-birmingham/

### GAY VENUES ACCESS

There's a huge choice of venues to visit throughout the Pride weekend. All of them have their own accessibility policy.

Some offer elevators as well as ramps, disabled toilets and easy access to the outdoor and smoking areas.

Please refer to each venue's website for updated information on accessibility at their venue.

Alternatively, give them a call directly to find out how they can assist you.

A full list of 'Gay Venues Supporting Pride', with contact details, can be found at **www.birminghampride.com**

**For further information, visit www.birminghampride.com**

## Can you help out at Pride?

# Volunteer at Pride

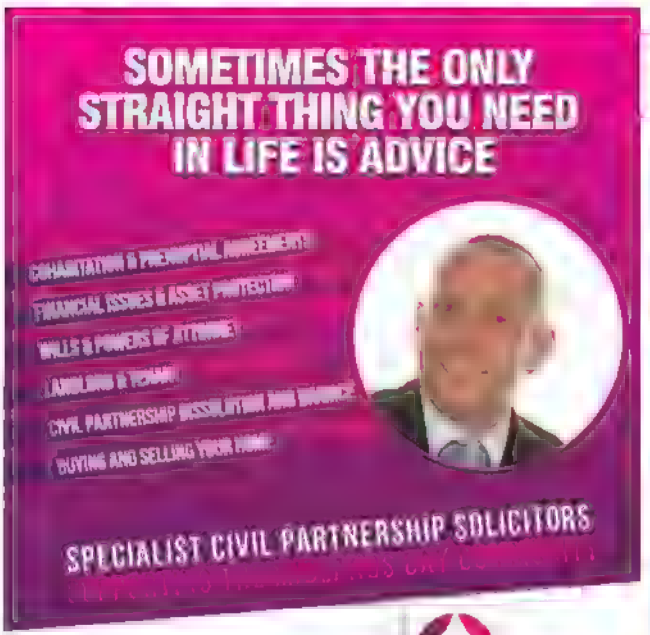
**Volunteering provides people with an opportunity to shine, to make new friends, and also to play a part in ensuring that the Birmingham Pride festival is inclusive and open to all.**

Everyone who gets involved feels a real sense of community and achievement.

There are plenty of opportunities to participate, whether it be as a **Parade Steward, a Wheel Marshall, a Registration Volunteer, part of the clean-up crew**, or by Fundraising throughout the festival.

Be part of something that's fun and varied, and show the Midlands how we pull together for Pride.

So if you've got a few hours to spare during the event and would like to find out more, register your interest now by emailing: simon@birminghampr.de com


bradin trubshaw & kirwan

Bradin Trubshaw & Kirwan Solicitors, 5 Beacon Street, Lichfield, WS13 7AA
Tel no: 01543 421840 www.btksolicitors.com
Email: ljt@btksolicitors.com

# Useful Pride Info

**Please read the following information carefully to get the maximum festival experience...**

## Do you have to buy a ticket/wristband to enjoy Pride?

You will need to purchase a TICKET/WRISTBAND to enter the Birmingham Pride festival site. Children under five don't need a wristband but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

If you don't have a ticket/wristband, you will still be able to enjoy the Carnival Parade completely FREE of charge.

## Do you have to be gay to attend?

No, you don't! Birmingham Pride is a celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community - but everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

However, any individuals who're found to have been homophobic or transphobic will be ejected from the Pride site

## Anti-social or homophobic or transphobic behaviour

Birmingham Pride operates a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy towards anti-social or homophobic/transphobic behaviour. We reserve the right to eject anybody from the festival site.

## Can we take alcohol and drinks into Pride?

**No alcohol or glass can be taken on to the festival site**
Sealed plastic bottles of water are allowed. There will be lots of bars and catering within the site

## Are children welcome?

We encourage families to attend Pride. Children under 14 must be accompanied at all times by an adult.

**Children under 5 get FREE ENTRY** so do not require a wristband (maximum of two children per parent or guardian).

## Pride at night from 10pm: 18+ ONLY

After 10pm on both Saturday and Sunday, only visitors who're over 18 will be permitted entry. We operate a Challenge 25 policy - so if you're lucky enough to look under 25, please ensure that you bring appropriate ID.

Anyone who's under 18 is welcome to stay on the site after 10pm - but if they leave the site, they will not be able to gain re-entry after 10pm.

Wristbands will be required for access throughout the night. A Pride at Night Wristband is available to purchase at the entry gates after 10pm.

## Wristband information

If you've purchased a ticket prior to the festival, you will need to exchange this ticket for a wristband on the day - please see the Site Map to find out where you should do this.

Wristbands must be securely fastened or may be void

Wristbands must be intact, in one piece and worn at all times

Torn or ripped wristbands will not be accepted for entry

Lost wristbands will not be replaced under any circumstances - and if you aren't wearing a valid wristband, you will be asked to leave the festival site.

Wristbands are not transferable between visitors.

Wristbands are required for drink purchases at all venues and outdoor bars within the main festival site.

## Disabled visitors

The organisers of Birmingham Pride wish to make the festival inclusive for ALL and recognise the need for easy access throughout the event for disabled visitors. There are various features in place to cater for those with accessibility needs who are coming to Birmingham Pride. Visit our website below for further info.

## VIP/Premium tickets

Benefits to the holder of a **VIP wristband** include:

> Meet-and-greet opportunities with selected artists. However, these cannot be guaranteed

> VIP bar at The Penthouse

> Main Stage: inner circle viewing area with a separate bar at the front

> Cabaret Stage: inner circle viewing area with a separate bar at the front

Benefits to the holder of a **Premium wristband** include:

> Main Stage: inner circle viewing area with a separate bar at the front

> Cabaret Stage: inner circle viewing area with a separate bar at the front

## Where do any profits go?

Birmingham Pride is a very costly festival to stage and basic infrastructure costs spiral every year, which is one of the main reasons why we charge an entrance fee for the event.

However, Pride is a NOT-FOR-PROFIT organisation, and profits raised go to local LGBTQ and other charities and projects.

**For further information, visit www.birminghampride.com**

West Midlands
NS1
Bus
Stop
23
24
West
BX13

# Birmingham a rainbow city

Each year, more and more businesses, arts organisations and retail venues come out to show their support for Birmingham Pride and the region's LGBTQ community. In the lead-up to and during Pride weekend, you'll see the rainbow flag proudly displayed across social media platforms, websites, buses, in stores and even on Dr Martens boots...

# Continue The Journey

They fought for our equality.
Don't let them drift into the background.
Celebrate our over 50s and continue what they started.

[illegible] ageingwithpride.co.uk

@ageingwithpride

Ageing with Pride

Birmingham LGBT

bvsc the centre for [illegible]

Contact us:
**0121 643 0821**
**info@ageingwithpride.co.uk**

# Sponsors, supporters and friends

**A big thank you to all our principal partners and sponsors, without whose financial support Pride couldn't go ahead, and to our in kind supporters and friends, who've made a significant contribution.**

Principle Sponsor

HSBC UK

Main Stage Sponsor

Virgin trains

Cabaret Stage Sponsor

MAG Manchester Airport

Dance Arena Sponsor

mixmag

Future Stage Sponsor

Spindle

SMIRNOFF

ZONE

Southside

**BIG THANKS to our sponsors, friends, supporters and the team**

HSBC UK
Virgin Trains
Manchester Airport
Smirnoff
Southside BID
Logic Vapes
Mixmag
Spindle
National Express West Midlands
Midlands Zone
Global Radio
Holiday Inn
The Ticketsellers
West Midlands Police
West Midlands Fire Service
West Midlands Ambulance Service
St. Johns Ambulance
Clonezone
Gaydio
BBC WM

**Festival Director**
Lawrence Barton

**Festival Co-ordinator**
Simon Baker

**Entertainment Stages Programming**
David Nash
Daniel Brown
Simon Baker

**Events Team/ Health & Safety**
Darren Barton
Terry Runcorn
Garry Peal
Clive Thompson
Traffix

**Security**
Mac Clarke
More Secure
Dave Thompson

**Parade Floats**
Marty Smith
Jason Green
Tim Kavanagh

**Communications:**
Martin Monahan
Ellis Miles Stewart
Brian O'Faolain
Sue Jones
Aaron Child
Twenty First Century Media Group

**Birmingham LGBT Centre Community Programming**
Steph Keeble
Rico Johnson-Sinclair

**Contractors**
Eventmen
Dynamite FX
Fews Marquees
Good with Wood
Robert Green
Tommy Wilson
Funfair

**Volunteers & Pride Ambassadors**

A very big thank you to Tom Dallaway, Bobby Allen-Ford and our team of fantastic volunteers, who have freely given their time to this year's festival

**Parade Participants**

A massive thank you to everyone who will be participating in what is our BIGGEST ever Pride Parade - with over 125 community groups, organisations and companies taking part.

**Supportive gay venues**

And finally, to the gay venues/business owners and managers highlighted on the Pride Map, who have been supportive and helped make this Pride Guide possible

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: **Birmingham Pride 2020**
**will be held on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May 2020**

# Over 250k raised for LGBTQ projects!

**Since the first paid-for Birmingham Pride in 2014, the festival has been delighted to award in excess of £250k to deserving local community and support groups, providing much-needed funds for essential services within our community.**

**Thank you for your invaluable help and contributions!**

## To date, 20+ organisations have received a grant from Birmingham Pride, including:

### £1k-£5k AWARDS

ST JOHNS AMBULANCE SERVICE.

LGBT NETWORK, Mental health work.

X2Y LGBT YOUTH GROUP, Wolves.

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT.

CITY YOGA PROJECT.

EMPOWER LGBT FAMILIES, Wolverhampton.

LGBTQ SHOUT FESTIVAL.

SHROPSHIRE FILM FESTIVAL.

BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

BIRMINGHAM SWIFTS. Running group.

'BEAUTIFUL BOY' PLAY. Educational theatre project.

PINK SOU'WESTERS.

BEAVER VOICES.

### £5,000-£10,000 AWARDS

PETER TATCHELL FOUNDATION

OUTSPOKEN, Birmingham School of Acting.

PARKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL - No Outsiders Project

AB PLUS.

RAINBOW VOICES CHOIR

EDUCATE & CELEBRATE, School projects.

BIRMINGHAM OPEN MEDIA

### £10,000-£20,000 AWARDS

JOURNEY MCC, Asylum group.

ST BASILS

### £20,000+ AWARDS

SIFA FIRESIDE

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE, Trans support work.

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE

**To apply for an LGBT grant from Birmingham Pride, please visit www.birminghampride.com**

# WHAT'S ON
## AT TOWN HALL SYMPHONY HALL

THSH
TOWN HALL BIRMINGHAM
SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM

**SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTOR**
SAT 6 JUNE 7.30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

**BERNADETTE PETERS**

**TAIT FRANCE**

**K.D. LANG: INGÉNUE REDUX – 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR**
SAT 27 JULY 7.30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

**STEVIE WONDER – THE HITS PERFORMED BY 16-PIECE ORCHESTRA**
SAT 27 JULY 8PM
TOWN HALL

**TREVOR HORN**
TUE 30 JULY 7.30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

**BOOK NOW** www.thsh.co.uk 0121 780 3333

Funded by
Birmingham City Council
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Town Hall renovation also funded by
LOTTERY FUNDED
PROJECT PART-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Town Hall Symphony Hall
@THSHBirmingham
thsh_birmingham

# A WEEKEND TO BE PROUD OF

Saturday:
9am - 8pm

Sunday:
11am - 5pm

Bank Holiday Monday:
10am - 7pm

Enjoy our cafes and shops and make the most of it with our late-night restaurants and parking

**BULLRING**
**& GRAND CENTRAL**
BIRMINGHAM

# Ageing with Pride

## Birmingham campaign reaches its climax...

**Ageing With Pride is Birmingham LGBTQ's 12-month campaign to increase the visibility of older LGBT people in the second city. Launched in August last year, the initiative's objective is to promote social mixing between generations and address issues around the subject of ageism.**

Midlands Zone recently caught up with Ageing With Pride's Campaign Manager, Rico Johnson Sinclair, to find out more about what's been achieved to date.

"So far we've been involved in a whole range of activities, all to spread the message that older LGBT people are a vital part of the community and are responsible for the freedoms we now enjoy. Our campaign has graced the pages of iconic national magazines like DIVA, Attitude and Gay Times, as well as local - and equally iconic - publications such as Birmingham Mail, Sutton Observer and of course Midlands Zone "

Ageing With Pride has worked in conjunction with the nationally recognised SHOUT Festival and has used city-wide billboards and bus stop adverts to promote its mission.

"We've worked with local care organisations and doctors' surgeries all over the second city. We've even spoken at an international conference in Amsterdam dedicated to reducing loneliness and isolation in older LGBT people around the world. And even more importantly, we've created opportunities for older LGBT people in this city to get out and about, in partnerships with Ageing Better Birmingham and our ambassadors programme."

> "We've created opportunities for older LGBT people in the city to get out and about..."

Short films have made their mark on the Ageing With Pride website and social media platforms. A special screening of a 20-minute documentary by filmmaker Nicola Prestage from Tiger Features will be shown next month. Ageing With Pride is urging the local LGBTQ community to pop along and see it.

And the campaign has been in evidence in the world of sport, too: "We've even gotten people to football matches thanks to our partnership with West Bromwich Albion's Proud Baggies and their '1968 Club', allowing older LGBT people access to free tickets and transport to West Brom games."

# Keep Your Rainbow

Getting older shouldn't mean fading away. Keep your rainbow and age with pride.

Find out how at **ageingwithpride.co.uk**
**@ageingwithpride** **@LGBTBirmingham**

Ageing with Pride

Birmingham LGBT

bvsc the centre for voluntary action

Contact us.
0121 643 0821
info@ageingwithpride.co.uk

# “We’ve got our eyes on Birmingham Pride as our big campaign climax...”

So much has been achieved in the past nine months - but as Rico points out, the Ageing With Pride campaign isn’t over yet: “We’ve got our eyes on Birmingham Pride as our big campaign climax, with a range of events including a walking group in the Pride parade - complete with confetti cannons - afternoon tea at Quarter Horse Coffee, and a Pride Sunday takeover at the Birmingham LGBT Centre, specifically for older LGBT people but for all to enjoy, complete with film screenings and activities to cater for all tastes.

“For those of you who venture into the festival part of Pride, we’ll have a stall there providing information on everything the campaign has to offer, and other services for older LGBT people which we provide via Birmingham LGBT, such as Ageing Better.”

For more information, visit ageingwithpride.co.uk, the Birmingham LGBT Facebook page or pop into the centre itself

Ageing with Pride

17 May - **IDAHOBiT at Birmingham LGBT**

25/26 May - **Pride weekend at Birmingham LGBT including Ageing with Pride takeover on the Sunday**

26 May - **Polari with Paul Burston at the Electric Cinema with special guest VG Lee**

17 August - **Pink Picnic at Kings Heath Park**

MGM
BIRMINGHAM MATURE GAY MEN
MEETING at 8pm the
MGM - Midlands.org.uk
mgmbham@gmail.com
Call Tom for details - 07899 335677
The Fox, Lower Essex Street, Birmingham, B5 6SN

# WIN!

## 4 tickets to Rocky Horror!

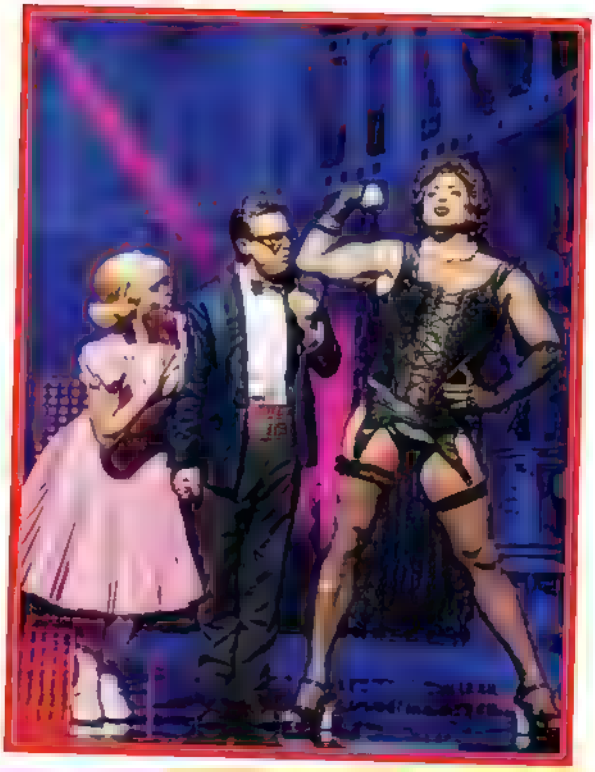
**Let's do the Time Warp again! Midlands Zone is offering you the chance to win four tickets to the opening night of The Rocky Horror Show at The Alexandra, Birmingham, on Monday 13 May!**

Brad and his fiancée, Janet, two squeaky clean college kids, meet Dr Frank'n'Furter when their car breaks down outside his house. The encounter kickstarts an adventure they'll never forget!

Richard O'Brien's legendary rock'n'roll musical is visiting Birmingham as part of a worldwide tour, and has so far been seen by more than 30 million theatre goers

**The Rocky Horror Show runs at The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Monday 13 to Saturday 25 May.**

**Competition closes at midnight on Thursday 9 May**



# Top 5 Viral

**What ya talkin' about on social media?**

1. Missing Bar unveils its brand new look

3. New Pride festival for trans community

4. House of Lords pass new Relationships and Sex Education regulations

2. Homophobic crimes on the rise in West Midlands

5. Crazy academic blames gayness on semen-eating anal worms


NHS

MENS HEALTH

LEICESTER

Male only clinic sessions available.
Find out more at:
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

**Free, private and confidential sexual health checks for gay & bisexual men, men who have sex with men and swingers*.**

*

Day: Mondays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 29 New Bond Street, LE1 4RQ

Splash Spa & Leisure

Day: Tuesdays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 61 Bedford Street, LE1 3JR

Amigos Leisure

Day: Thursdays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 30 Bedford Street South, LE1 3JR

TRADE

Day: Fridays
Time: 12 - 2pm (last appointment 1.45pm)
Place: 2nd Floor, 27 Bowling Green Street, LE1 6AS
You can also check out Trade Sexual Health:
www.tradesexualhealth.com

# What's On

**Arts • Theatre • Entertainment**

## Rocketman

Reginald Dwight took up piano lessons at the age of seven and four years later won a junior scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music. But he was really a fan of Elvis and Bill Haley & His Comets, and it was this passion that was to steer him towards a career in rock'n'roll. In 1972 he changed his name to Elton John...

Although for technical reasons he never got a credit on Bohemian Rhapsody, Dexter Fletcher actually directed much of that film (after the original director, Bryan Singer, was dismissed) and high hopes are resting on his new musical biography.

The screenplay is by Lee Hall, whose script for Billy Elliot was nominated for an Oscar

**On general release Wed 22 May**

## Rotterdam

Following a critically acclaimed West End run, Jon Brittain's bittersweet comedy about gender, sexuality and being a long way from home has headed out on a UK tour

It s New Year in Rotterdam, and Alice has finally plucked up the courage to email her parents and tell them she's gay But before she can hit 'send', her girlfriend Fiona reveals that he has always identified as a man and now wants to start living as one named Adrian.

As Adrian begins his transition, Alice must face a question she never thought she'd ask. does this mean she s straight?. .

**Birmingham Repertory Theatre -**
**Monday 20 - Wednesday 22 May**

## Andrea Gibson

LGBT contemporary poet Andrea Gibson brings her latest tour to the Midlands this month.

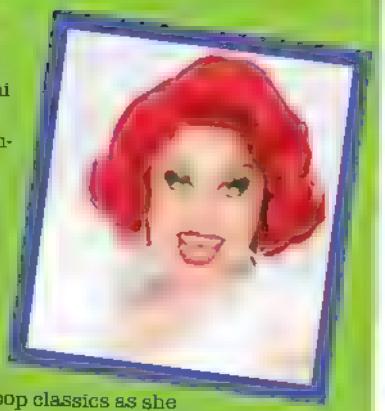
An artful and nuanced look at gender, romance, loss and family, Lord Of The Butterflies is a show of protest. While rioting against gun violence, homophobia and white supremacy, Andrea celebrates gender expansion, queer love and the will to stay alive.

**Glee Club, Birmingham -**
**Monday 13 May;**
**Glee Club, Nottingham -**
**Thursday 16 May**

## Russell T Davies Q&A

**MAC, Birmingham Saturday 18 May**

# La Voix



A Britain's Got Talent semi finalist and star of Ab Fab The Movie, the larger than-life La Voix dazzles audiences with her incredible voice, natural wit and hilarious impersonations of the great and the good Accompanied by her band, she performs bewitching renditions of jazz, musical theatre and pop classics as she regales audiences with scarily accurate impressions of female icons, including Cher, Tina Turner, Shirley Bassey and Liza Minnelli. No diva is spared!
A feast for the senses, this evening of frills, frocks, frolics and fun is not to be missed!

**The Old Rep, Birmingham - Saturday 1 June**

**NEXT MONTH! A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!**

# MARINA

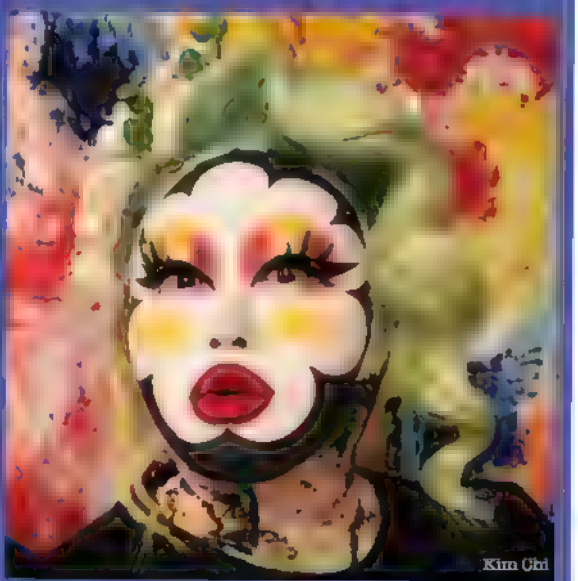
Multi platinum-selling Marina And The Diamonds has ditched her alter-ego of the past 10 years and reinvented herself as MARINA.
She visits Birmingham as part of her promotional tour for fourth album LOVE+FEAR.

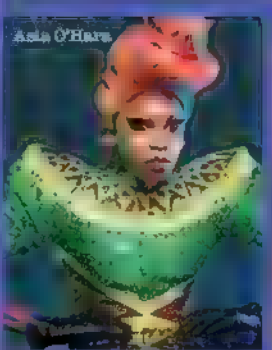
**O2 Academy, Birmingham Thursday 9 May**

Jane McDonald is bringing a festive-fuelled show to Birmingham in December. Jane will perform a programme of seasonal music - including I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday and Fairytale Of New York - alongside songs from her own repertoire. Her concert takes place at **Arena Birmingham on 20 December.** Tickets go on sale at 10am on Friday 3 May

# RuPaul's Drag Race: Werq The World

The Official Tour of RuPaul's Drag Race Queens [illegible] Miss Vanjie, Monet X Change, Aquaria, Kameron Michaels and Kim Chi [illegible] Symphony Hall, Birmingham Friday 5 May



# Have your say!

**Let us know what's on your mind...**

## There's more to life than social media...

I loved Lacey Lou's column with it's handy tips on how to protect your self-esteem when using social media. With more and more young people suffering from mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, it's great to hear other voices like Lacey's reassuring us all that we're not alone in thinking everybody else is having a better time and making more of their lives than we ourselves are. Envy is a very natural human emotion, but the rise of social media has given us all way more opportunities to feel envious of other people's lives.

It's important to remember that behind every Facebook smile there's a bigger and not always more wonderful story unravelling in that particular person's life. Forget about drawing conclusions without having anywhere near enough evidence; instead, just focus on living the life that you yourself want to live. I guarantee that if you do that, you'll have a successful and rewarding time on Planet Earth.

**Tilly Jones, Stoke-on-Trent (email address supplied)**

## Thank you Birmingham Pride...

I'm so excited by the Birmingham Pride 2019 lineup. But what excites me even more is the fact that the festival is taking a respectful attitude towards its punters, in sharp contrast to Manchester and Brighton Prides, which seem to be viewing the LGBT community as something of a cash cow. Well done Birmingham - your stance on fairly reasonable admission fees, given the huge costs of all the artists and to put on the festival in general, is yet another positive aspect of an event that grows in popularity with every passing year.

Birmingham Pride headliners Years & Years

**Tom Spencer, Birmingham (email address supplied)**

## It's time to tackle transphobia...

Two recent sports-related news stories have served to highlight how much progress has been made in terms of defeating homophobia but how much work remains to be done regarding transphobia.

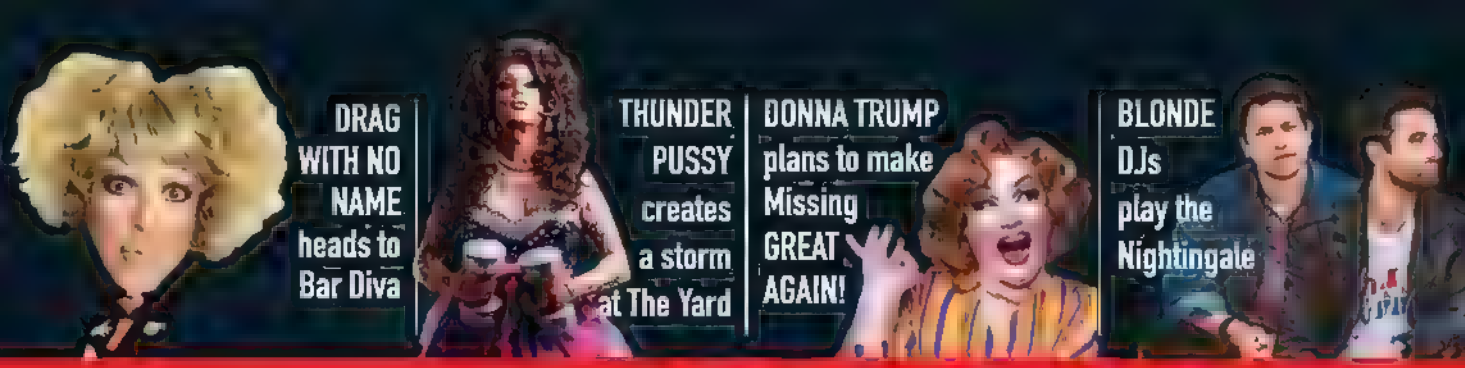
England cricket captain Joe Root called out West Indies player Shannon Gabriel when he used the word 'gay' in a derogatory way...

Less impressive was Martina Navratilova's comments regarding the advantage she feels male-to-female transgender athletes have when competing against other women.

Root's admonishment of Gabriel happened on the field of play, and he's to be commended for standing up to homophobia in a situation where he could easily have gotten away with not doing so. Similarly, Navratilova chose to speak out when she also could've avoided doing so - but in her case, given her perspectives, she would definitely have been better off following that age-old adage 'silence is golden'. If you haven't got anything positive to say, Martina, it's always best to say nothing at all.

**Jenni Downes, Leicester (email address supplied)**

Tennis player Martina Navratilova


DRAG WITH NO NAME heads to Bar Diva
THUNDER PUSSY creates a storm at The Yard
DONNA TRUMP plans to make Missing GREAT AGAIN!
BLONDE DJs play the Nightingale

# SCENE

Your guide to the month ahead on [redacted]

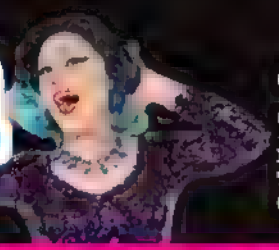
MAY 2019

## STOMP ALL NIGHT!

## Claire from STEPS

headlines at Eden Bar for Birmingham Pride!

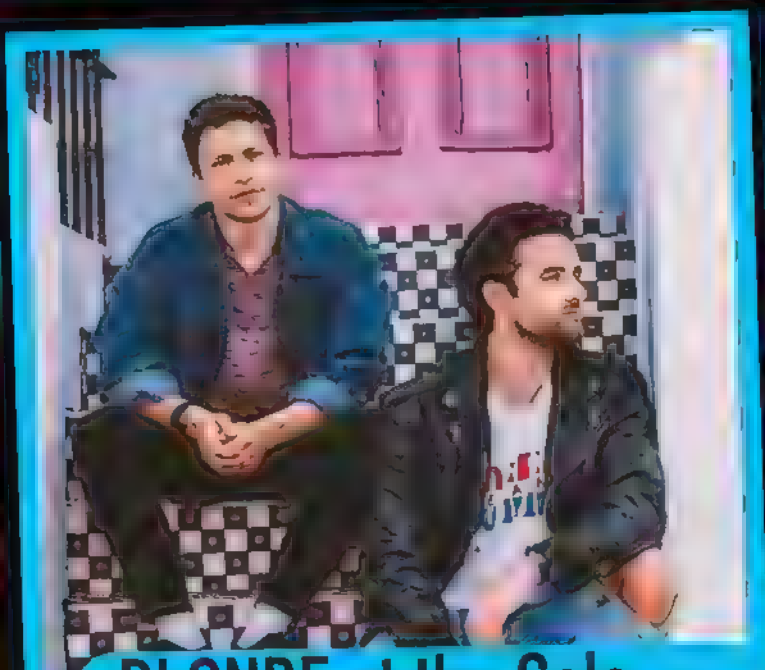
# What's On



Jade Justine

**Friday 17 May**
**The Yard, Coventry**

## AROUND THE MIDLANDS GAY SCENE



## BLONDE at the Gale

Emerging from Soundcloud and the YouTube Future Beats movement, Blonde have three UK top 10 hits under their belt and have collaborated with international vocalists including Craig David, Alex Newell and Katy Perry. For one night only, they will be bringing a live show to the Nightingale with Bryn Christopher, the amazing vocalist from their most recent track, Me, Myself & I

**Saturday 4 May, The Nightingale Club, Birmingham**

## DRAG IDOL HEATS

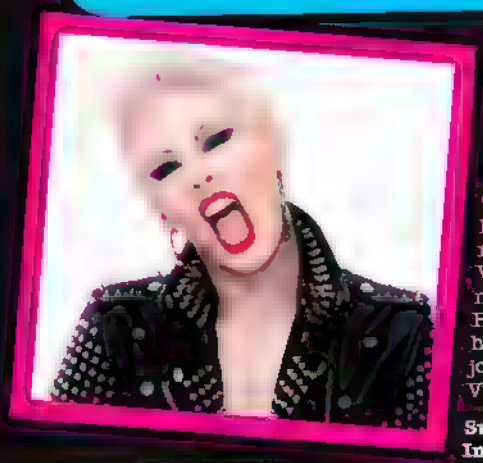
It's Drag Idol time and Eden Bar will once again be hosting the Birmingham heats and final for the region.

The first heat on 9 May is Britain's Got Talent star Danny Beard. After a successful run of the 2016 and appearing at Eden on Saturday the 9th.

Other Drag Idol hosts are Vivienne Lyndsay on 2 May and Brenda LaBeau on the 16th.

If you think you've got what it takes why not enter by contacting the venue or visiting the Drag Idol Facebook page.

Thurs 2 May 1st Drag Idol heat with **Vivienne Lyndsay**
Thurs 9 May 2nd Drag Idol heat hosted by **Danny Beard**
Thurs 16 May 3rd Drag Idol heat hosted by **Brenda LaBeau**
Thurs 23 May Drag Idol heat hosted by **Danny Beard**



## Vicky Jackson as PINK!

The Midlands' favourite PINK tribute returns to the Village Inn this month for a Bank Holiday special! So head on down and join the party with Vicky Jackson!

**Sunday 5 May, Village Inn, Birmingham**

## MISS PENNY

National Cabaret Act award winner Miss Penny is popping up in Birmingham, Coventry and Shrewsbury this month as well as being a headline act in the Birmingham Pride Cabaret Marquee on Saturday 25 May!

**Friday 5 May, Village Inn, Birmingham**

**Friday 31 May, The Yard, Coventry**

**Mon 15 & Mon 30 May**
**Host at Havana Republic, Shrewsbury**

## Brenda LaBeau

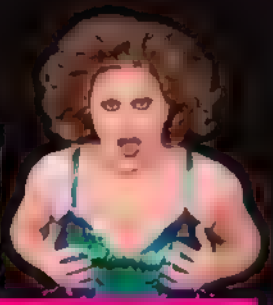
**Mon 6 May**
**Havana Republic, Shrewsbury**

## Nicki French Eurovision Party

**Sat 18 May at Eden Bar, Birmingham**

## Fanny Burns

**Sat 11 May at Eden Bar, Birmingham**



## Topsie Redfern

West End star and Drag Idol UK 2013 runner up Topsie Redfern will be bringing the house down when she visits the V...age Inn this month.

## Sandra London

The Whore of Hampstead Heath returns to the Midlands this month to get you in the party spirit!

**Mon 20 May**
**Havana Republic, Shrewsbury**

**Fri 24 & Fri 31 May,**
**Village Inn, Birmingham**

## DRAG WITH NO NAME

The always-fantastic Drag With No Name returns to the Midlands! Expect an evening of quality comedy and re-workings of popular songs. From Gaga to Britney, Jessie J to My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding, and Kerry Katona to Susan Boyle..., no one is safe!

**Saturday 11 May**
**Bar Diva, Dudley**

**Fri 24 May,**
**Village Inn, Birmingham**

## PARTY WITH MARTY

Birmingham drag legend Marty Smith is out and about in the Midlands this month, serving up her usual delightful dose of fun, games and naughty antics!

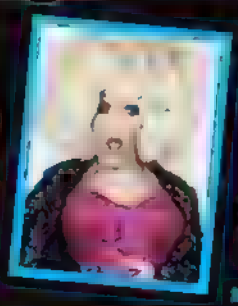
**Friday 3 May,**
**The Yard, Coventry**

**Fri 17 May,**
**Village Inn, Birmingham**

## Tina Sparkle

Miss Tina Sparkle has been performing for more than 15 years in venues across the UK and abroad. She heads to Dudley this month for an evening of glamour, comedy & plenty of laughs!

**Saturday 18 May, Bar Diva, Dudley**



## Miss Thunderpussy

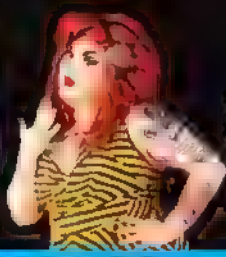
International drag superstar Miss Thunderpussy visits Coventry this month. Be prepared for cheeky banter, dirty talkin' and blinding tunes!

**Friday 10 May**
**The Yard, Coventry**

## OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE

**Sat 4 May - Dre Hosk - Live Music** at The Loft
**Sun 5 May - Son of a Tutu** at The Boston
**Sun 5 May DJ Jim Shaft Ryan** at Chic
**Fri 10 May - Jade Justine** @ The Boxed Bar, Leicester
**Sat 11 May - Freemasons** DJ at The Yard, Coventry
**Sat 11 May - WI7S - Live Music** at The Loft
**Sun 19 May - Leather Social** at Eden Bar
**Fri 24 May - Fannie Coil** - The Yard, Coventry
**Fri 24 May Mids Bears** Pride Edition - Eden Bar
**Fri 24 May XXL** at Core
**Sat 25 May Urban Slag** at Core
**Sun 26 May - Fanny Burns** at The Boston

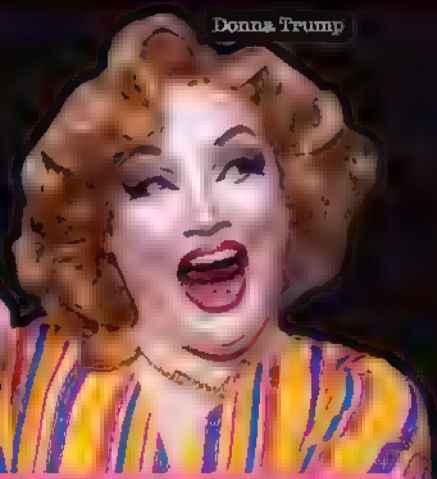
# What's On



Amy LaQueefa
Sat 25 May
The Fox

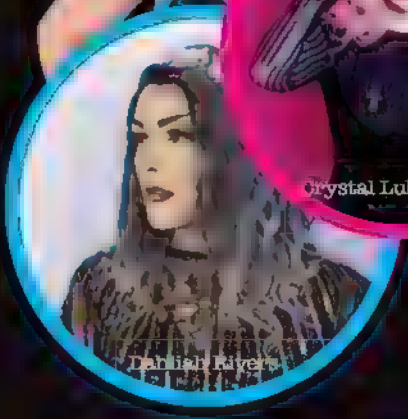
## AT BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

Cherry Liquor



Donna Trump

Crystal Lubrikut

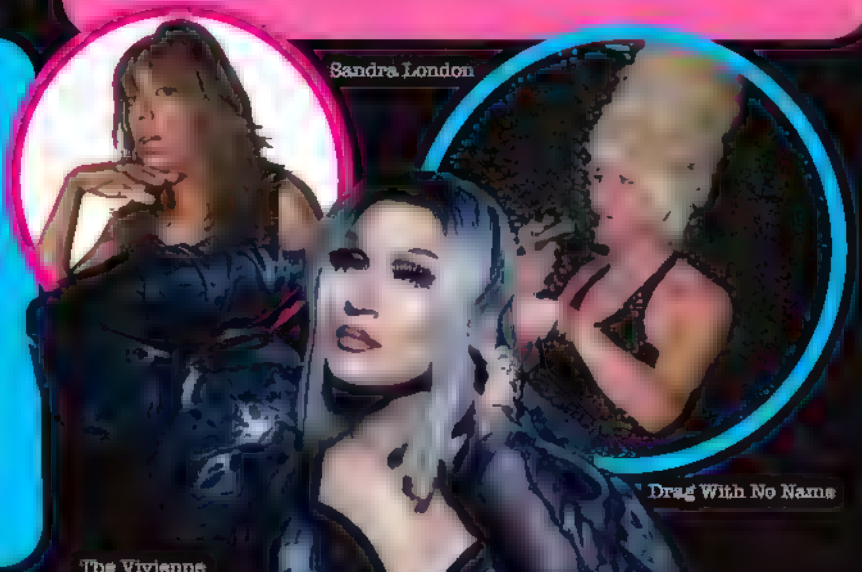


Delilah Rivers

## A MEGA CABARET LINE-UP AT MISSING BAR

## A TRIPLE THREAT AT THE VILLAGE INN

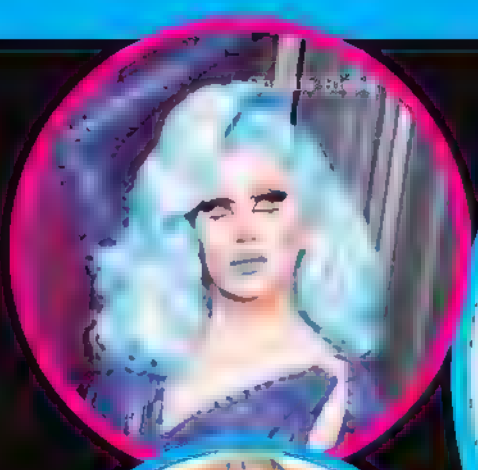
May is a bumper month of cabaret over at the Village Inn. Over the Pride weekend it's a double header on **Fri 24 May** with both Drag With No Name and Sandra London bringing the songs and laughter to the venue, whilst RuPaul's Drag Race's UK ambassador The Vivienne will make an appearance on **Sun 26th May**

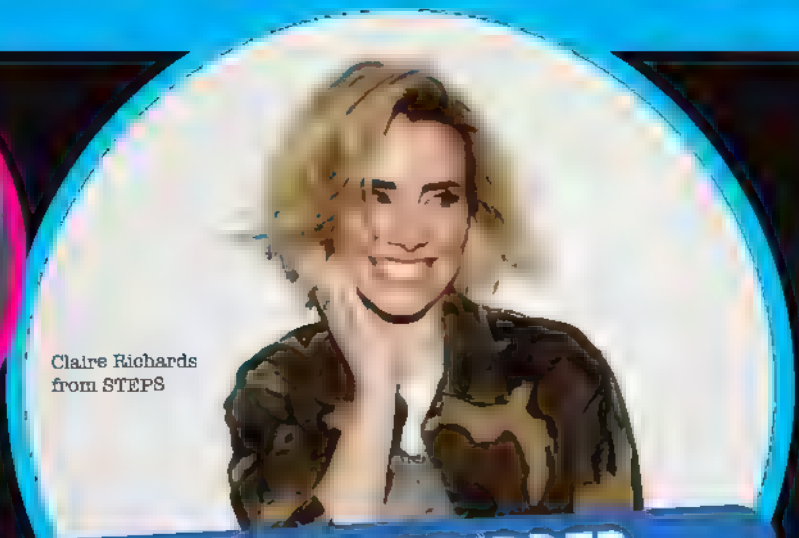


Sandra London

Drag With No Name

The Vivienne





Claire Richards from STEPS

# A STAR-STUDDED WEEKEND AT EDEN BAR

Apart from STEPS, all-nighter Eden Bar's mega-line-up in Birmingham's Pride weekend on **Sat 25 May** including some tracks from her debut album My Kinder Dream, plus Little STEPS classic 'Better Best' to Stomp all night. Other acts on **Sat 25 May** include Fatty Bum Brenda Beau, Charlie Hyde, The Dolly Show, Donna Marie as Lady Gaga, Melissa Totten as Madonna and Mary Mac.

The shindig also runs over to **Sun 26 May** for an encore of Vivienne Lynsey, Scott Gill as Alice Mayor, Cheryl Hadley as Bogue Minogue, Rachael Roberts as Shirley Bassey, Tania Alboni as Cher, Denis Beard, La Voix and Rumina Baldock as Totally Tina.

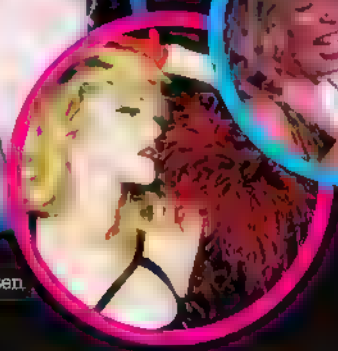
Pint of Guinness every time the weekend would be rude not to, obviously.

Vivienne Lynsey



Tania Alboni

The Dolly Show



Melissa Totten

Totally Tina

La Voix

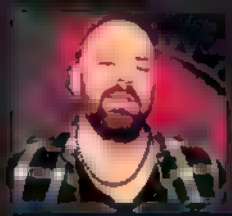
# GAY BARS & CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...

## Birmingham

### EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar

EVERY WEDNESDAY 8PM
Quizzical with DJ Yogi
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY
Karaoke & Disco with DJ Nikki

EVERY SATURDAY
DJ Tom Lee & DJ Pom alternate weeks.



The Village Inn, Birmingham

### THE LOFT
12 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge

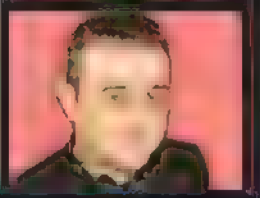
FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
Queeny's Quiz

EVERY MONDAY
Monday Cocktail Club
2 hr £10

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wing It Wednesday
Kilo of wings and drink £10

### MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

EVERY MONDAY UNTIL 4AM
Ministry of Pound with DJ Mike Emery

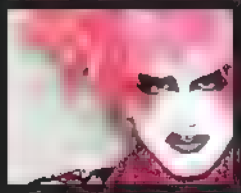


EVERY TUESDAY
Karaoke with Gavina Vagina

EVERY THURSDAY 9PM
Thursdays with DJ Gavina - £1.50 bombs

EVERY FRIDAY 9PM
Hit Mix and Her with DJ Mike Emery & Gavina Vagina

EVERY SATURDAY
Missing's House Party with DJ Matty, DJ Mike Emery and host Twiggy

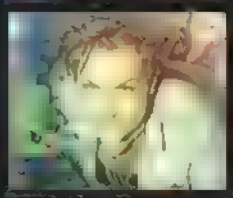


EVERY SUNDAY 8.30pm & 10.30pm
Camp as f*ts with Amy LaQueefa and guest cabaret

### NIGHTINGALE CLUB
Kent St, B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub

EVERY THURSDAY
Pounded! with £1 drinks all night

EVERY FRIDAY
Absolute Anthems with DJs Corey Hadley and Scott Hilton



EVERY SATURDAY
Nightingale Saturdays with free entry until 12pm

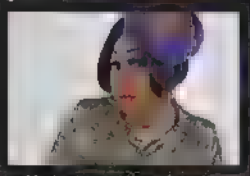
### THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham

EVERY MONDAY 9PM
Bingo with Queeny

EVERY TUESDAY
Pick n Mix with Ginny Lemon + Blanche

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Karaoke with Charlotte the Harlotte
EVERY THURSDAY
Miss Marty + Miss Penny alternate weeks

EVERY SUNDAY
Yshee Black + special guests



### PLUS THESE VENUES

**BAR JESTER**
Holloway Circus, B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8344

**BOLTZ CLUB**
Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

**CLUB CHIC**
28 Horsefair, B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

**THE CORE**
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797

**DEVIL$ KITCHEN**
Kent St, B5 6NB

**FOUNTAIN INN**
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

**THE FOX**
7 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

**GLAMOROUS**
[illegible]

### SAUNAS IN THE AREA

**SPARTAN HEALTH CLUB**
127 George Road, B23 7SH
Tel: 0121 382 3345

**UNIT 2**
78 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 7070

## CANNOCK

**CANDI CAINE'S CABARET LOUNGE**
3 Church Street, WS11 1DE

## COVENTRY

**GLAMOROUS COVENTRY**
88 Short St, CV1 2LX

### THE YARD
11-17 Bull Yard, CV1 1LH
Tel: 02475 012 959
theyardcoventry.co.uk
/TheYardCoventry

EVERY TUESDAY
**Jelly Cube quiz night**

EVERY WEDNESDAY
**Open mic night hosted by Tom Barnwell**

EVERY THURSDAY 8PM
**Free Shot Karaoke with Jupiter & Minerva**

EVERY SATURDAY
**DJ Richard Alexander with Jupiter and Minerva**

EVERY SUNDAY
**Bingo, Play Your Cards Right and Deal or No Deal with weekly cash prizes of over £100**

## DUDLEY

### BAR DIVA
76 Lower Plaza Mall, King Street, DY2 8NZ
/BarDivaThePlaceToBe

EVERY MONDAY
**Manic Monday with Miss Annie**

EVERY THURSDAY
**Get Pounded Karaoke with Miss Annie**

EVERY FRIDAY
**Freaky Friday's with DJ Mikey**

EVERY SATURDAY
**Cabaret Saturdays with Miss Annie**

EVERY SUNDAY
**Ring & Ride with Me & Margaret**

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havanarepublic.co.uk
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EVERY MONDAY
**Fabulous Mondays with Miss Penny and guest cabaret every 1st and 3rd Monday**

### THE PEACH TREE
18-21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

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**GOSSIP**
5 Hope Street, ST1 5BT
Tel: 07399 664955

**PINK**
93 Stafford Street, ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 272772

## STOURBRIDGE

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

**HEROES HEALTH CLUB**
5 Lower High St, DY8 1TE
Tel: 0138 444 2030

## TELFORD

**THREE FURNACES**
30 Bridgnorth Rd, Madeley
TF7 4JB. 01952 588521

## WALSALL

**THE LION**
Birchills St, WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

**THE RED LION**
Park St, WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

## SAUNAS IN THE AREA

**THE GREENHOUSE**
Willenhall Road, WS10 8JG
Tel: 0121 568 6126

## WOLVERHAMPTON

### GORGEOUS
School St, WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247
/gorgeousbar

EVERY SATURDAY 10PM
**EGO Saturdays**

## WORCESTER

**THE FLAG**
50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

**VELVET CLUB**
Angel Row, WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20[illegible]0

## DERBY

**THE CROWN INN**
40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

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Tel: [illegible]

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94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

**RAINBOW & DOVE**
185 Charles St, LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

**AMIGOS LEISURE**
30 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR
Tel: 0116 251 1955

**CLUB 29**
29 New Bond St, LE1 4RQ
Tel: 0116 262 7770

**SPLASH SPA & LEISURE**
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Tel: 0116 367 3932

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College St, NN1 2QP
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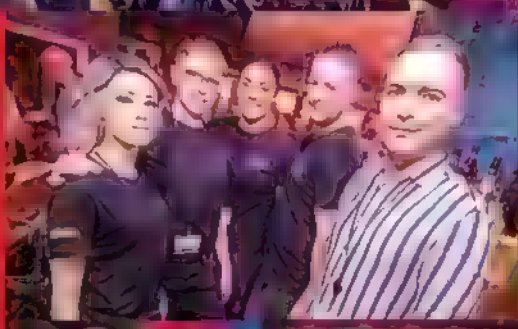
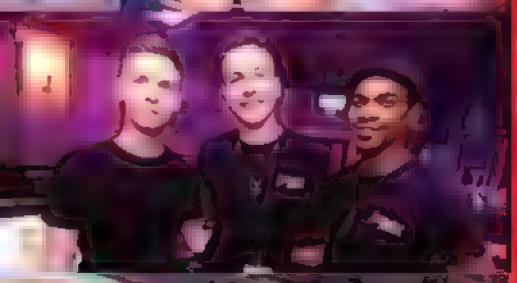
# MISSING
## BIRMINGHAM

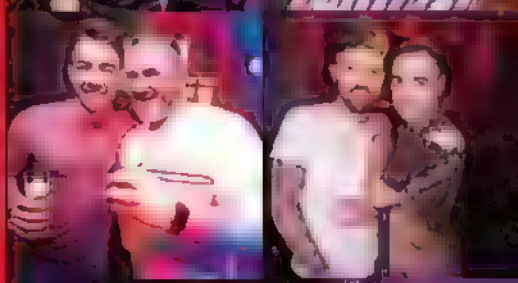
April saw the reopening of Missing Bar after its extensive refurbishment (check out the photos opposite).

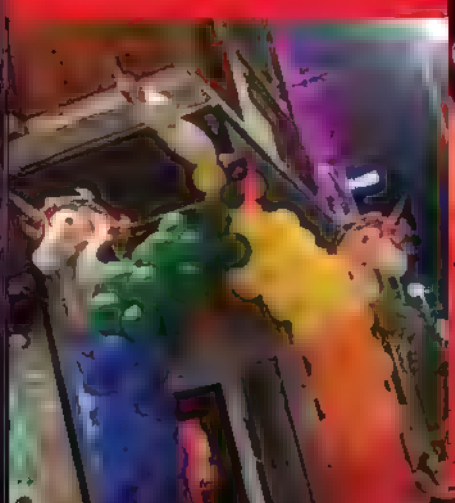
The Missing team celebrated the fabulous makeover with a Unicorn Disco, complete with two floors of music, £1 drinks and a night full of surprises!

This month the venue is hosting its very own cabaret stage across the Birmingham Pride weekend. Expect performances from the likes of Donna Trump, House of Allure Burlesque, Divine Miss M and many, many more!

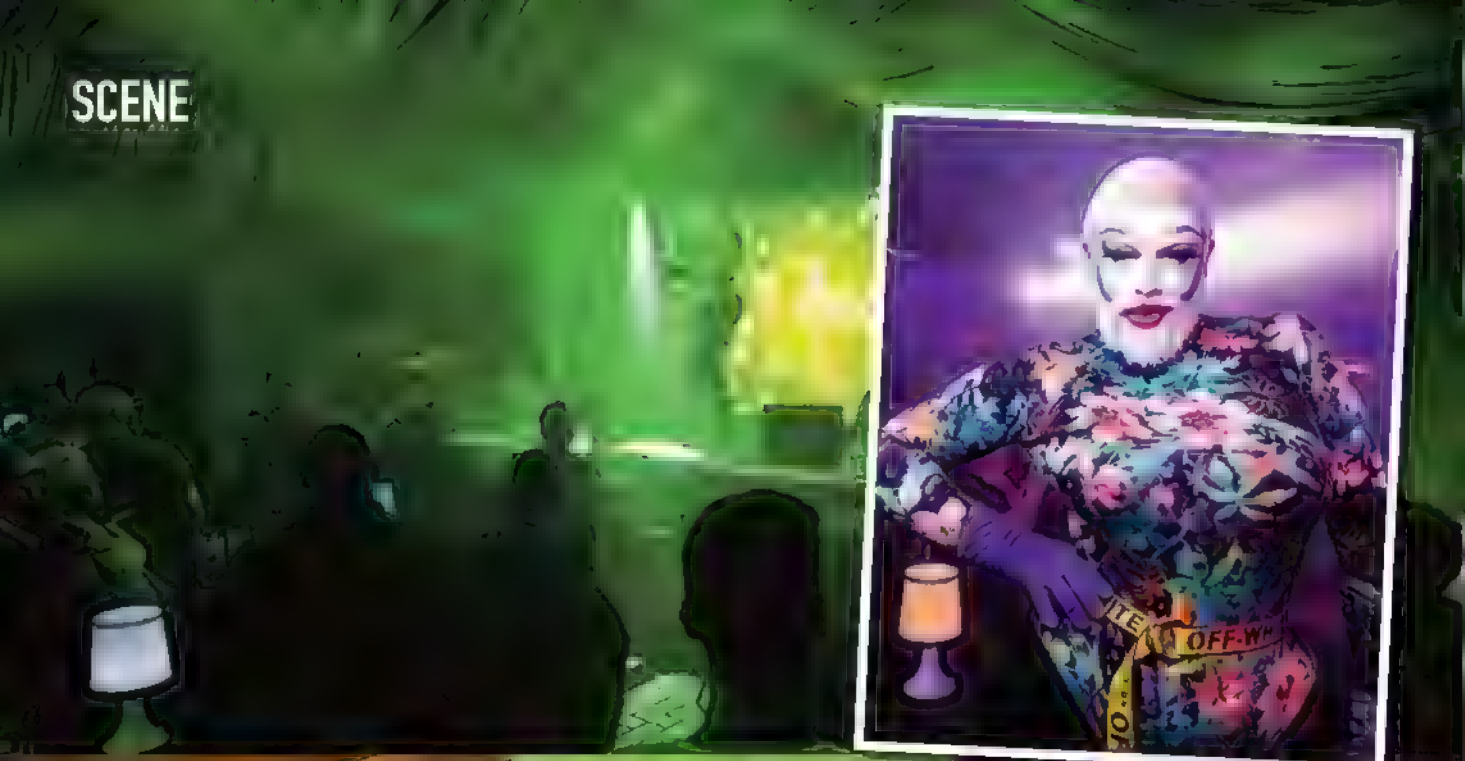








Welcome to the new-look Missing!
Main man David and the Missing team showing off their new-look venue



# EDEN BAR

The fantastic Danny Beard was just one of the fabulous acts gracing Eden's stage in April

The merry month of May sees the venue hosting the Birmingham heats of this year's Drag Idol (see opposite), with the final taking place on Thursday the 23rd. The venue will also be screening Eurovision live on Saturday the 18th.

And Eden have pulled out all the stops for Birmingham Pride weekend too, with their incredible line-up of live acts being headlined by the one and only Claire from STEPS! Check the Birmingham Pride guide for more info.

MAY

# eden

THUR 2nd **DRAG IDOL** 1st HEAT with Vivienne Lynsey

FRI 3rd **BURLESQUE** hosted by House of Allure (ticketed event in the Marquee)

SAT 4th **F###K SOCIAL**

SAT 4th **DANNY BEARD**

THUR 9th **DRAG IDOL** 2nd HEAT with Danny Beard

FRI 10th **COMEDY NIGHT** HOSTED BY Michael Harris (ticket event in the Marquee)

SAT 11th **FANNY BURNS**

THUR 16th **DRAG IDOL** 3rd HEAT with Brenda LaBeau

SAT 18th **EUROVISION** LIVE Broadcast on the BIG Screen

**NIKKI FRENCH**

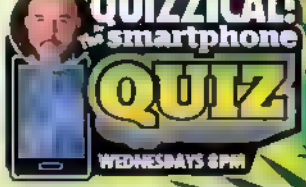
SUN 19th **LEATHER SOCIAL**

THUR 23rd **DRAG IDOL** HEAT FINAL with Danny Beard

FRI 24th **MIDS BEARS**

SAT 25th **PRIDE SAT**

SUN 26th **PRIDE SUN**




EUROVISION THEME ON WED,15TH
PRIDE THEME ON WED 22ND

**CLAIRE RICHARDS**

See Pride Guide for Full Line-up - Pride opening times 12pm to late

**DJ TONI LEE**
*SAT 4th & SAT 11th*

**DJ PONI**
*SAT 18th*

**DJ NIKKI**
*EVERY FRI & SUN*

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Open from 2pm Mon-Fri 2pm Sat & Sun | 116 Sherlock St. Birmingham, B5 6NB | 0121 622 1953 | www.TheEdenBar.co.uk

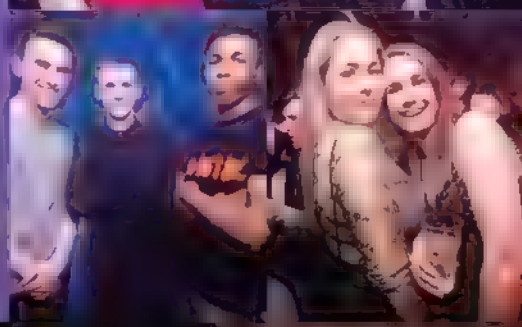
# GORGEOUS

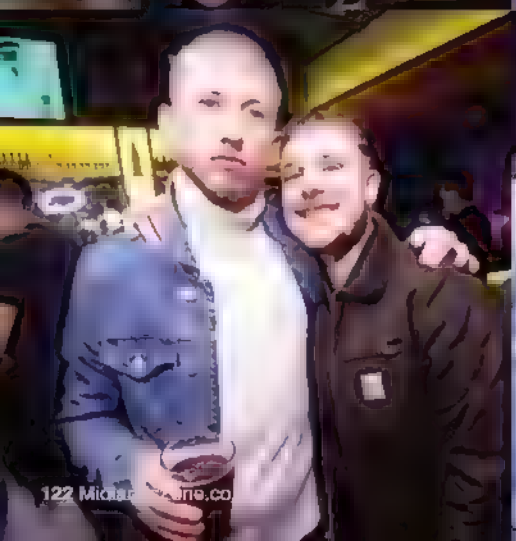
## WOLVERHAMPTON

Gorgeous is home to one of Wolverhampton's busiest club nights, Ego, taking place every Saturday from 11pm till 6am.

With a mashup of commercial R&B, chart-toppers, anthems and house & bass there's something for everyone.

Students can also get 20% off entry and drinks with a valid student ID card.





gorgeous
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2 BARS | VIP BOOTHS | VIP LOUNGE
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WOLVERHAMPTON
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GORGEOUS SCHOOL STREET WOLVERHAMPTON WV1 4LF 01902 771122

# THE YARD

Blue's Simon Webbe treated the crowds to a great performance of some of his biggest hits at The Yard last month.

May sees the club raising funds for this year's Coventry Pride. In partnership with Puregym, staff will be completing a sponsored bike-a-thon on Saturday the 4th, peddling away from 10pm until 4am! Good luck, guys!

# May AT THE YARD

## EVERY WEEK

TUESDAY - QUIZ NIGHT
WEDNESDAY - OPEN MIC NIGHT
THURSDAY - FREE SHOT KARAOKE
SUNDAY - GAMES NIGHT

## SATURDAY 18 MAY
## EUROVISION PARTY
LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN
IN THE CLUBHOUSE
HOSTED BY VERONICA GREEN

## SATURDAY 11 MAY
## Freemasons DJ SET
IN THE CLUBHOUSE

the yard

The Yard, 11-12 Bull Yard, Coventry, CV1 1LH
www.theyardcoventry.co.uk 024 7501 2959

# BAR DIVA

## DUDLEY

Fun, frolics and frivolity were in plentiful supply at Bar Diva across the Easter bank holiday weekend – and we have the pictures to prove it!

Tina Sparkle and Drag With No Name will be hitting the Bar Diva stage this month to appear in the venue's popular Cabaret Saturdays event.

Looking ahead to June, RuPaul's Drag Race ambassador The Vivienne heads to Dudley on Saturday the 1st.

# BAR DIVA!

## DUDLEY'S LGBT + CABARET VENUE



18 MAY
TINA SPARKLE

1 JUNE
RUPAUL DRAG RACE AMBASSADOR
THE VIVIENNE

11 MAY
DRAG WITH NO NAME

| | |
|---|---|
| THURSDAY'S | THIRSTY THURSDAY'S WITH MISS ANNIE & TRIXIE LEE |
| FRIDAY'S | FREAKY FRIDAY'S WITH DJ MIKEY |
| SATURDAY'S | CABARET SATURDAY'S TOP DRAGS & HOSTED BY MISS ANNIE |
| SUNDAY'S | RING & RIDE FUN, GAMES AND PRIZES WITH MISS MO BILITY AND MARGARET |
| MONDAY'S | MANIC MONDAY BOGOF KARAOKE WITH MISS ANNIE, HAPPY HOUR 8-1AM |

COMING SOON

Dudley PRIDE

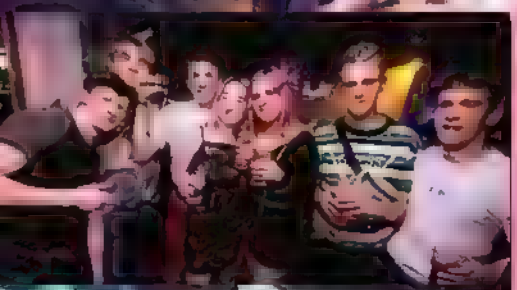
CHECK OUT FB.COM/DUDLEYPRIDE

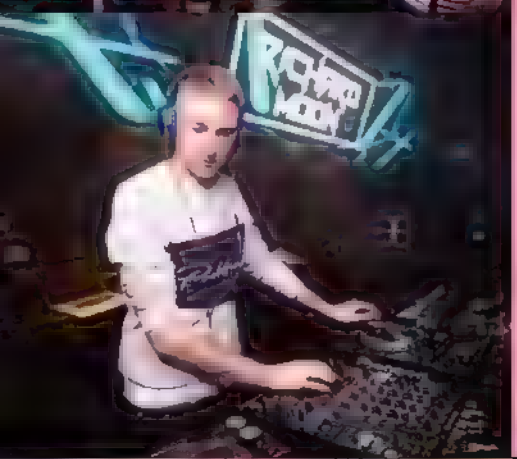
**BAR DIVA**

Plaza Mall King Street DY2 8NZ Dudley

AWARD WINNER

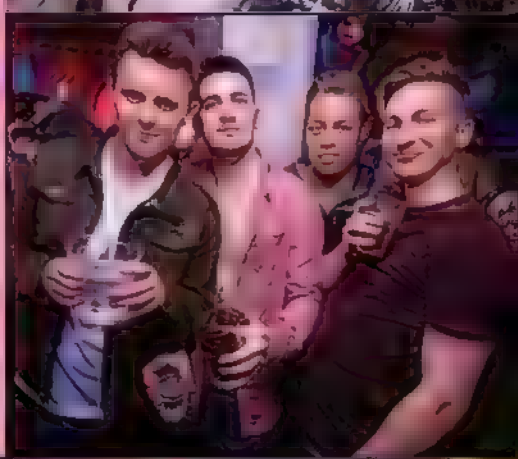
# THE NIGHTINGALE

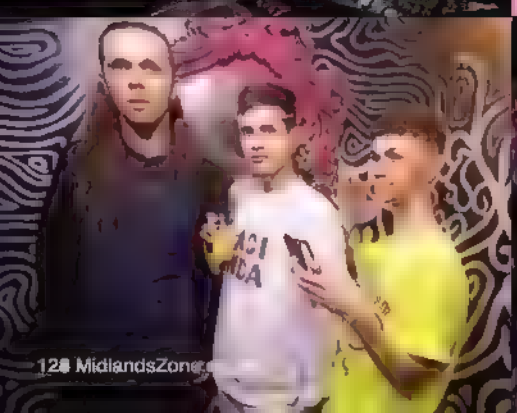


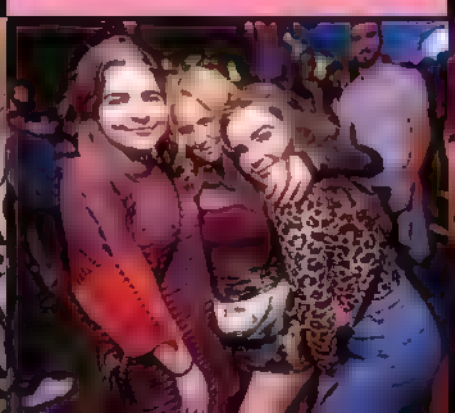


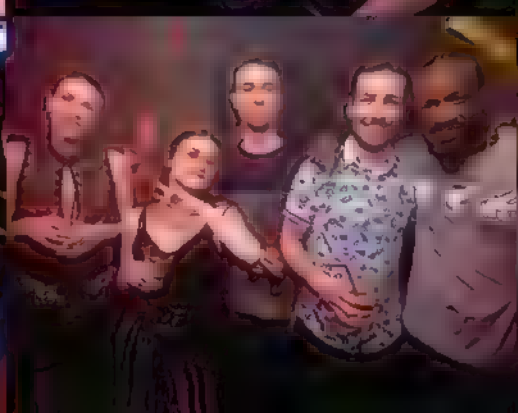
Another wild month of 50th birthday celebrations at the Nightingale included an appearance by Kim Woodburn as guest judge for a pole-dancing contest!

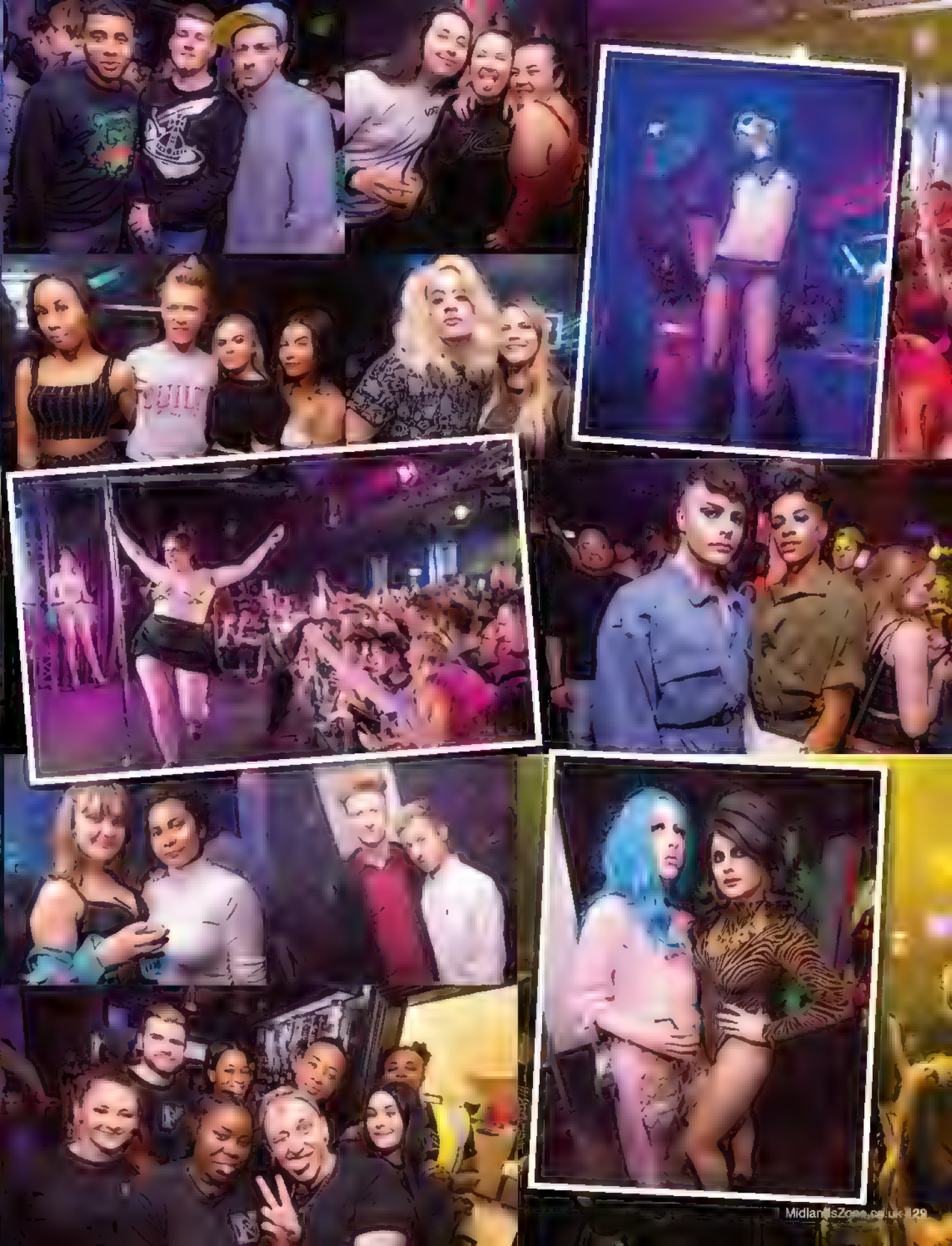
For Birmingham Pride weekend, the venue is offering the Big Gale Pride Pass, providing holders with entry into the club on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night for only £15! Grab one while you can!

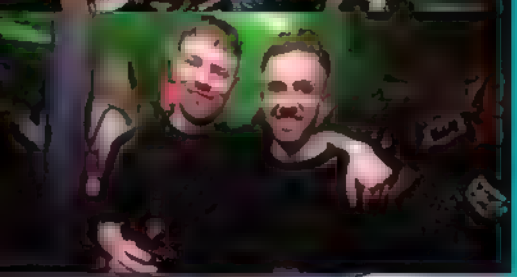










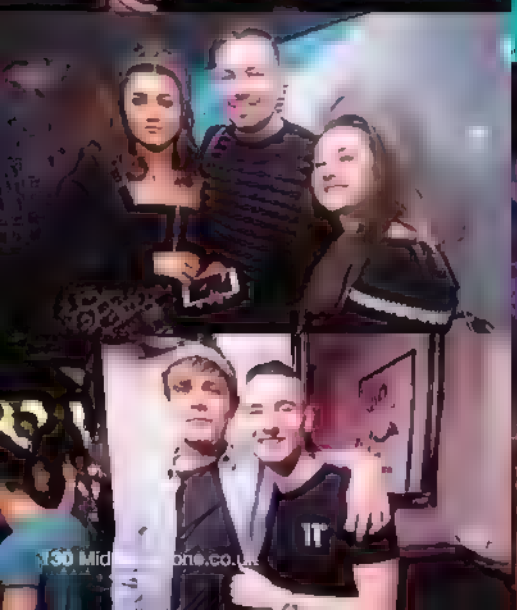


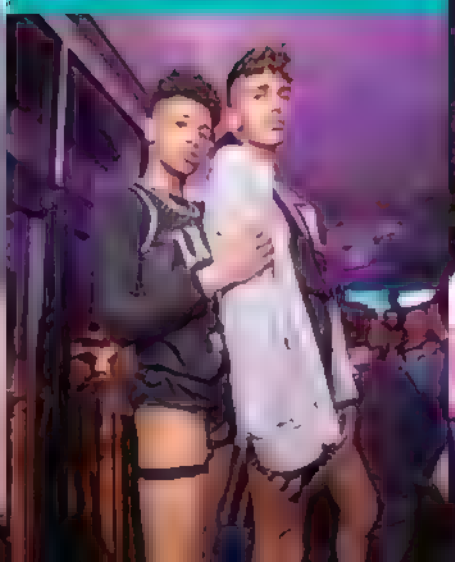
# VILLAGE INN

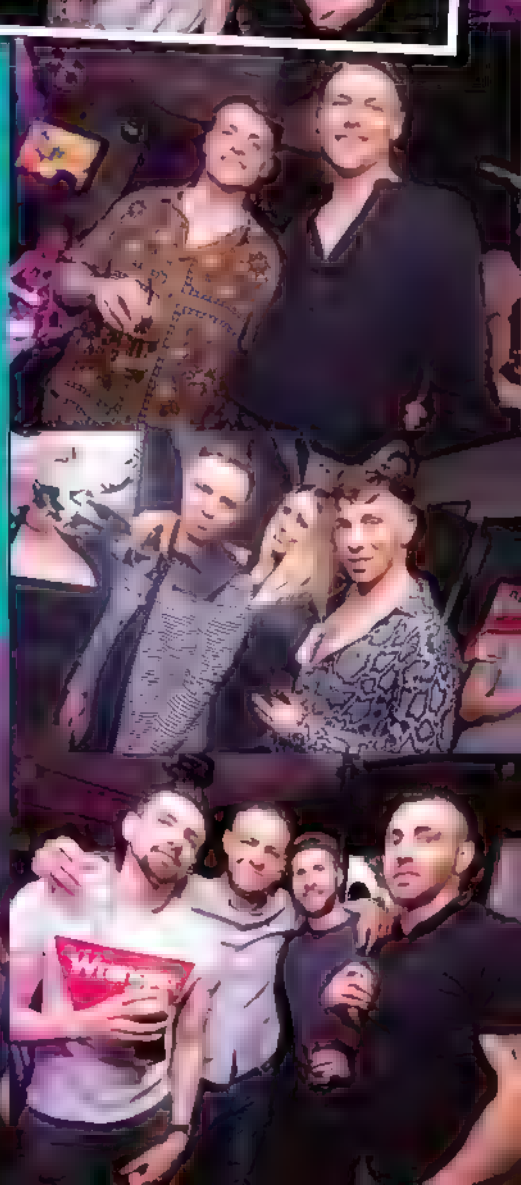
## BIRMINGHAM

Hosting some of the UK's best live talent seven days a week, The Village Inn is one of the longest established and most popular bars in Birmingham's gay quarter.

And the venue is set for another incredible month, with a cracking line-up of cabaret on offer, including Topsie Redfern, The Vivienne, and Vicky Jackson as Pink. So head on down and enjoy the fun!







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HAVANA ★ REPUBLIC

# Miss Penny's

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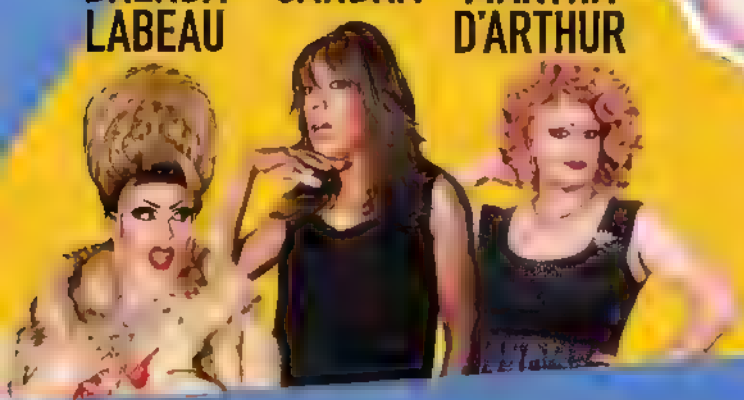
Special guest cabaret nights

BRENDA LABEAU

SANDRA

MARTHA D'ARTHUR



FREE ENTRY B4 12!

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GREAT DRINKS

18 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SY2 6AE 01743 271821

# HAVANA REPUBLIC

## SHREWSBURY

The biggest gay Monday night out in the Midlands, Havana Republic's Fabulous Mondays event is never short of fun and frolics.

Brenda LaBeau takes to the stage there on Mon 6 May and Sandra London will be popping by on Mon 20 May.

## THE LOFT

### BIRMINGHAM

With craft beers, contemporary cocktails, a locally sourced food menu, speciality gins and a fully heated garden in the heart of Birmingham, what's not to love about The Loft!

The venue will be hosting a Pride pre-party on Saturday 4 May, with DJ Simon Baker playing the hits from past and upcoming Pride headliners. There will also be free entry to The Loft across Birmingham Pride weekend, with two days of live DJs to enjoy (from midday until late).

MIDLANDS ZONE

# GET INVOLVED!

We're looking for bloggers and people who would like to write for or get involved in some way with Midlands Zone! Interested? Then either contact us with a private message on our Facebook page or email editor@midlandszone.co.uk

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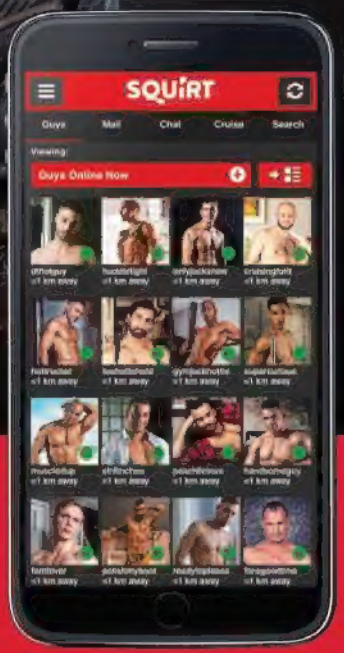


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